<u>Purple Fire</u>

There was pain, agonising pain. Ignizu was being beaten. Head smacked against the floor. Again and again. He was screaming, sobbing, apologising, and begging him to stop. He didn't. He kept going. Tears and blood ran down his face. He was about to lose consciousness again. Give in to sweet oblivion. He let out a final almighty scream. It stopped. It was warm. He opened his eyes, slowly making sure this wasn't some kind of trick. He screamed again. There was blood and fire, all around, and the charred corpse of his assailant in pieces around him. He couldn't believe his eyes. "Father..? Daddy?" He screamed and screamed and –

Ignizu woke up screaming. He sat up and wiped the sweat from his forehead. He hadn't had that dream for about a year now, ever since he had come to this world. Things here had been quiet, safe, he'd been in control of his power.

There was a knock at the door. He jolted out of bed, quickly pulled some clothes on. He answered the door to see a young beautiful female face in front of him. "Oh Sia it's you" he said relieved.

"What do you mean by that? Who else would it be?" she accused. Ignizu looked thoughtful for a moment.

"No one. I just... Never mind, come in" he said with a smile. He closed the door and busied himself in making them both some tea.

"So tell me some more of Faken's stories." She said sitting down at the table.

He bought over the tea and sat down. "Ok, so where were we?" he said with a grin. "We've got through his training with his master." He slowed, looking slightly pained for a second. "Then the death of his master, and the murder he committed because of that..."

Sia cut in, "Oh yeah he killed that boy that he thought killed his master right? But he was just the boy who delivered food to the cave they lived."

"Yeah... that's the one." He said sadly, but smiled at Sia. "Ok well next he decided to leave his past and his powers behind... and settle in a small world with little magic and-" He stopped suddenly; sensing something, an influx of magical energy. Here? How could that be? There were no mages, no sorcerers in this world. Only Planeswalkers could use magic here… His mind reeled at that thought. How? Why? No Planeswalker would come to this backwater plane. Unless… they were here for him? No that couldn't be… He stood up suddenly, knocking over his cup of tea.

"Ig what's wrong?"

He looked down at her, his face the most serious she had ever seen it.

"Sia..." he took her hand. "Stay here, please, no matter what you see, or hear, stay hidden until I get back."

She looked at him, full of questions, but she could sense that this was not the right time. "Ok."

He turned and opened the door, pausing a moment he looked back. "Sia I..." He shook his head. "Never mind, see you soon." He smiled reassuringly and left.

Sia stared at the closed door, wondering what the hell was going on.

Ignizu walked forward, trying to find the source of the magic. Something warm and furry hit him in the chest, sending him crashing to the ground. He punched the creature and got to his feet, it was some kind of monstrous squirrel. It hissed and jumped at him again. This time he finished it, surrounding his fist with flame and punched square through it. Its charred corpse fell to the ground and disintegrated, its essence returning to its master.

He turned slightly, a man stood a few metres from him.

He was dressed in a long dark silken cloak, covered with patterns of ornate green leaves. His hood cast a dark shadow across his face. Only his mouth could be seen, the corners raised, revealing an amused smile. He started to clap.

Ignizu glared at him. "Who might you be?" he asked anger prevalent in his voice.

The man said nothing, he simply continued to smile and raised a hand, summoning another beast, this one a huge boar. He waved his arm and the beast charged at him.

Ignizu stuck out his arm, a bolt of lightning struck the creature, but it continued to run at him. Damn it! The magic wasn't strong enough - he was out of practice. "Fine if that's how you wanna play it." Ignizu focused. There was a burst of flame and a small drake appeared. It flew down tackling the beast head on. Then there was silence, as both of the creatures essences returned to their respective masters.

The man spoke suddenly.
"A bit out of practice, aren't you Ignizu? I almost got you there" the man said, his voice smug.

"I could say the same thing to you" He retorted.

A massive bird condensed out of mist behind the man and attacked, knocking him to the ground. The man made a noise of anger and sent a blade of black energy at it, destroying it instantly.

"Who are you?! What do you want?!" Ignizu shouted.

The man got to his feet in the most dignified way he could. "You'll pay for that!" he hissed at Ignizu. He reached out a hand and grabbed, twisting, as if he was pulling something out of the ground. There was a soul shattering squeal as a creature raised itself from the earth.

Ignizu stared in horror it was the same boar that he had killed, but now it was an undead, it's flesh rotting as he stared transfixed.

The man chuckled annoyingly.
"That's right; you've probably never seen someone who draws on the power of black Mana before have you? Well let me explain it for you. My creatures can't die. I'll just keep bringing them back."

The boar jumped at Ignizu and, before he had time to react, it gouged his stomach with a tusk. He collapsed to his knees, coughing up blood.

The man walked forward and looked down at Ignizu, wearing a grin of pure evil. The man raised his hand, ready to strike a blow when –

"IG!" Sia came running out of the house.

"Sia, No! Stay back!" he roared at her. She stopped .The man lowered his hand and turned to look at her.

"Ig?" the man chuckled. "Well, nice to make your acquaintance Sia." He turned back towards Ignizu. "I think I've had enough fun here for now. Farewell, *Ig.*" There was a flash and the man was gone.

Ignizu collapsed to the floor bleeding, injured and out of breath.

Sia ran to him. "Ig!" She lifted his head up in her arms and stroked his blood-matted hair out of his face.

"I-I'm fine..." he closed his eyes for a minute.

 Sia stared in amazement as his wound sizzled, closing slightly.

He opened his eyes. "Sia... you shouldn't have seen that."

"Ig, what the hell was all that? Those powers... those creatures... they're like those stories you tell me." Something clicked in her head. She looked at Ignizu questioningly, her head tilted slightly. So all that stuff you told me... about magic and Planeswalkers... it's all true," her mouth was agape with realisation.

Ignizu nodded, with a pained look on his face. He sat up suddenly. "I'm sorry Sia, but you can't know this. I-I need to erase your memories of this event... actually I'll need to erase everyone's memories, not just of this, but of me."

 Sia recoiled, eyes wide. "N-no, w-why? You can't do that."

He stood and walked towards her, his walk somehow determined. "Sia please understand. I need to do this and then disappear... otherwise he'll be back. I'm just trying to protect you all." His eyes glistened.

She drew back from him, defiance in her eyes. "NO! Ig! No... NO! You can't do this." She exclaimed, thrashing and tearful. "I don't want to forget you Ig. Ig I I-"

Ignizu reached and grabbed her head, his hand glowing with blue energy. She collapsed, he caught her in his arms. A tear trickled down his face as he carried her down to town. "I'm sorry."

Ignizu was sat in a bar drinking his sorrows away. He hated that he had been forced to leave that world... leave Sia. He also hated himself for being a coward, running away from the hooded man. He cursed and punched the table, drawing strange looks from those around him.He stood up, it was time to leave. He walked outside, into the cool crisp air of the night. Suddenly he heard a voice behind him.

"Hey there *Ig*."

He recognised the voice. He turned around ready to attack.

"Now, now, you wouldn't want to hurt any innocents would you?"

He stopped and lowered his hand. He was right, they were too close to innocent people. "Good" said the man patronizingly.

"How did you find me, yet again?!

"Just like I did before, I traced your Planeswalker spark, it leaves a unique signature behind on each plane you visit," he explained smugly.

"Ok, but what the hell do you want with me?!" Ignizu hissed

"Well, to take sweet revenge on you, but for now, let's talk."

"What did I ever do to you?" The man laughed.

"You act so innocent, you may not know how I am involved, but you must surely remember what you did?" There was suddenly a small hint of doubt in the man's voice, but he quickly composed himself. "Back to the matter at hand. I have your girlfriend, what was her name again? Sie or something?"

"Sia..." Ignizu whispered, his voice scared.

"Oh yes, that's the one. She really is the most delightful girl isn't she?"

"Why!? She has nothing to do with this!" He exclaimed, surrounded by a fierce, fiery aura.

The man laughed, a dark and twisted laugh. "I was rather surprised to find you had erased her memory. I really didn't think you had it in you" he said with a grin.

"Where is she! Take me to her!" he said through gritted teeth. The man grabbed his shoulder and they were gone.

Ignizu hit the ground. The ground beneath him was hard. Dead. He looked up to see a dark stormy sky, sheer cliff surrounded him on all sides. They were in a natural arena. He stood up to see a scared Sia chained to the cliff side, with the hooded man in front of her.
"Sia! It'll be ok!" He called, emotions tumbling inside him, as he stared at her looking so hurt and scared.

She stared back at him like he was a stranger.

"Crap" he muttered.

The hooded man laughed and lowered his hood.

Ignizu stared at him. He knew he didn't know him, but he looked familiar... also now he thought of it his magic felt familiar too. Something clicked inside his head. "You look like –"

"Yes, I do look like my father. Your 'master' don't I?" he interrupted gleefully.

"I never knew master had a son," he said slowly, quietly.

"If you did, would that have stopped you from killing him?!" His voice was venomous.

Ignizu looked straight up, his eyes full of surprise. "I didn't kill him!" His voice was full of conviction.

"Oh? Then how do you explain me finally coming back to my father after 15 years exile and finding him dead? I looked through his journals; the only person he had been in contact with in those 15 years was you."

"He just died, old age, I came back one day and he was dead."

"Well even if that swayed me a little. Here's something for ya: you killed your own father. Look me in the eyes and lie to me about that!"

Ignizu's face dropped, master must have written everything in those journals. "Th-there were circumstances. Your father trained me so nothing like that would happen again."

"But it did, didn't it. Just one day you broke, and killed again." His voice was grating and accusing.

"NO!" Ignizu protested angrily, flames erupting from him.

"You're lying, I'm not sure why but you're lying, and for that I can't forgive you." He reached towards Sia, his hand crackling with malicious black energy.

Sia shrieked and kicked his chest.

The black energy and flickered and left his hand as he hit the floor.

Ignizu seized his chance. He formed a fiery axe in his hand; he ran forwards and embedded it in his foes chest. The man screamed, a hellish scream that made Ignizu grasp his head in pain. The scream stopped.

Ignizu fell to his knees breathing heavily. He couldn't believe it. He had killed again. He punched the floor. He didn't want this. He didn't want this life... but he was free now, free again to live his life. He stood up to go and release Sia. He heard her scream. "Sia! Stay calm, you may not know me but I'm here to-" he was cut off by a sudden blow to the back of the head. He stumbled over the body and hit the floor hard. He heard a malicious giggle behind him. He got up slowly, his head bleeding.

He turned to see the man standing behind the animated corpse of his master.
"What the-?! No it can't be!" Ignizu stared horrified into the cold dead eyes of his master. He stood there frozen. He couldn't move. How?! Why?!

The man laughed as the corpse dragged itself towards Ignizu.

"...master?" his voice was quiet, distant.

"You really thought you could defeat me? Your powers are nothing compared to mine!"

Ignizu stared at the wound he had inflicted. It was nothing more than a shallow cut.

There was a sudden shout from behind. "Hey you! Do something!"

He snapped out of it and sprung into action. He held one of his palms upwards, gathering thermal energy. It sparked, creating a fireball which he flung at him.

His master raised his arm, deflected it and carried on walking.

Ignizu panicked, thinking of what he could do. An idea hit him. He stood still and closed his eyes. If this worked, it would drain the rest of his energy. He sought out his master's mind. It was cold, empty. Perfect, this would be easier than a normal human. He rushed inside, gained control of every muscle, every tendon. This body was now his. He made his master stop and turn around. The man's face contorted in horror.

"W-what did you do?!"

Ignizu smiled. "It's over." He dashed forwards his fist shining blue, and punched him in the face. He fell to the floor unconscious. Ignizu turned to Sia as his master's corpse collapsed to the ground, falling into dust that was blown into the wind, shining softly as it did so. A tear falling from his eye.

He wiped his eye before leaning down and resting a glowing hand on the unconscious man's head. He erased his memory; he'd finish dealing with him after he freed Sia. He would take him to a new plane where he could start a new life. He got back up and released Sia. Questions spilled from her mouth.

"Who are you?! What the hell was-"

"Ssh Sia it's ok I –" he paused a second, thinking hard. "I'll undo it..." he whispered under his breath. He leant forwards and rested his forehead on hers.

She started to protest, but her eyes closed. A faint blue light surrounded their heads. It stopped and her eyes opened. "I remember everything." She stated simply.

"I know," he said as he undid her bonds. He stood back.

She stared at him, anger in her eyes.

"I'm sor-"

"Ig, don't," her eyes were cold.

"I was just trying to protect you..." his voice drifted off sadly. She shook her head at him

"You should have asked me..." her head drooped. "... I would have come with you."

"Sia..." he reached out to touch her shoulder. She shrugged back into the wall.

"Don't touch me!"

Ignizu recoiled, "Si..."

"Just take me home!"

"But-" he started.

"TAKE ME HOME!"

Ignizu nodded. His eyes filled with tears. He rested his hands on her shoulders. He closed his eyes and then opened them.

They were on top of the hill in front of his house. It was raining. They looked into each other's eyes one last time.

Her eyes told him he could never come back here, settle down again. He would have to accept his powers, constantly moving between planes, so that he would never get close to someone again.

She blinked and he was gone. She buckled to the ground, tears running down her face.