



Djinn 6: La Perle Noir

(Djinn 6: The Black Pearl)

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<http://comixinflux.com/influx/show/28>

Contributors

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[1:1] I'm looking for a woman. Or more precisely the recollections of a woman. She is more than that. This woman is a legend, a myth. // [1:2] The Orushi saw a Goddess in her. So it's been related to me. This woman was my ancestor, also known under the name Jade. // [1:3] Kim: She was a genie. // Mr Mo: Which is? // Kim: She was incapable of love. Her skin was soft, but her heart hard. Until she met an English Lord and his wife. She had a child by the Lord. With that the curse was broken and she had feelings once again. // [1:4] Mr Mo: And the child? // Kim: Was my mother. // Mr Mo: But the curse still exists? // Kim: Yes.

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[2:1] Mr Mo: Then... then are you... // Kim: A genie? Yes. A woman men should avoid. // Mr Mo: You're very tempting despite that. // [2:2] Kim: That's the way of genies. And they love power. Jade's power settled on an enormous fortune, the treasure of the Sultans. She acquired it before the outbreak of the first World War. // Mr Mo: An old story. // [2:3] That I'm following. I'm looking for the treasure that belongs to my family. That's what my mother and I believe anyway. My illusions have cost me a great deal, as I've sold my soul during this quest. // [2:4] Mr Mo: And you believe the treasure could be in Africa? // Kim: No, but the key to the trunk. // [2:5] Mr Mo: What kind of key? // Kim: A black pearl that Jade wore on her right ear. // Mr Mo: They also say that about the Goddess Anaktu. // [2:6] Kim: A girl knows the whereabouts of the treasure, a genie. The curse lies heavier on her. // Mr Mo: And who is that? // [2:7] Kim: Saru Sakti. She's a princess and lived the Maharaja of Eschnapur's palace. She was born in 1902. // Mr Mo: Is she still alive?

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[3:1] When Jade knew her, she was 12. As I saw when I visited the Maharaja, time has forgotten her. *This story will be told in the third cycle of Djinn. // [3:2] Mr Mo: What? You're telling me this woman was... // Kim: Immortal? Not necessarily. At 12 she stopped growing. That will change as soon as she has the black pearl. // [3:3] Jade told her where the treasure was hidden. A genie only trusts another genie. The girl held a heavy burden, but Jade offered her something in exchange. // [3:4] Under the Sultan's jewels was a pearl with a black elixir. It's rare and very strong, and the only remedy for girls' illness. // [3:5] Kim: Jade took the pearl to Africa when she travelled with Lord and Lady Nelson. The three of them planned a world tour, for which they had the money. I think Jade wanted to bequeath the pearl to my mother. // Mr Mo: It turned out differently. Jade never returned from Africa, and the pearl disappeared. // [3:6] It's become like a wild goose chase for me. My mother kept a notebook in which she wrote she thought the pearl was in Turkey. I experienced a harsh disappointment. I found only information that led to India. A Mr Prim introduced me to the Maharaja, but I was also disenchanted there. There was no treasure, only a girl who looked into my eyes and asked if I had a pearl. // [3:7] I'm drinking too much. That's not good.

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[4:1] Mr Mo: Wait a minute. You're saying the child is cursed. To outlive a normal lifespan is no curse. Men strive for that, and want to rid themselves of death. // Kim: You've had an active life as grown man Mr Mo. // [4:2] To always stay a child, never to grow, that should not be wished on anyone. The skin is soft and fresh, but the heart is a ruin, and the eyes are empty and longing. The relations die but the child remains dependent, not developing. // [4:3] Only the elixir in the pearl can save her. Then time will start again. She will age and experience a fulfilling life. // [4:4] Mr Mo: And whoever gives her the pearl will learn where the treasure is hidden. // Kim: As you say, Mr Mo. // [4:5] I need the black pearl. The Maharaja has laid aside a handsome sum. I can fund an expedition to the former lands of the Orushi. // [4:6] Mr Mo: The Orushi. No-one ventures there. // Kim: I will. A genie fears nothing. // [4:7] Apart from herself.

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[5:1] Mr Mo: Another question. How old are you, miss? // Kim: A man should never ask a woman that Mr Mo. You should know that, wise as you are. // [5:2] I have undertaken certain tests. I wore the 30 bells. I loved a man, and lost him. And I became a genie. The balance is bitter, but I have no choice. I must continue. // [5:3] Miss Nelson. I've been waiting for you.

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[6:1] Kim: Who are you. // Jag: My name is Jagger. Jag to my friends, and to you. // Kim: Who gave you permission to enter my bungalow Mr Jagger? // [6:2] Our united interest. You're looking for a pearl. We can look for it together. // [6:3] Kim: Let me guess. It's your life's work to bail out helpless women. // Jag: I'm not naive. Women like you are never helpless, No, I'm interested in something else. // [6:4] The pearl hangs from the right earring of an idol. The idol is worth as much as the pearl, if not more, but it brings trouble. Removing it is beyond my power. // [6:5] Kim: You dumfounded me. What will you do? // Jag: Easy. Take the pearl from the Goddess. Only Anaktu's descendants can do that. Anyone else will inherit death. That's the legend, and I believe in this country's legends. That's why, unlike others, I'm still alive. // [6:6] Kim: And how am I Anaktu's descendant? // Jag: No idea, but Kunawa 2 believes it. // [6:7] Jag: Without Kunawa 1 and 2 neither you nor I will reach our goal. Unfortunately Kunawa 1 is behind bars. Only money will free him, and you some, // Kim: Ah!

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[7:1] Jag: Understand me correctly. I won't harangue you about this. It's a suggestion that helps us both, but we must operate within certain rules. Consider it. We can leave in the morning. The earlier, the better. // [7:2] Kunawa 2 will talk to you. // [7:3] Jag: You're distrustful, and rightly so. Kunawa 2 won't make it easy for you. // Kim: Thanks for the warning. // [7:4] I hadn't given it a thought.

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[8:2] We have a boat. // [8:3] Yes, it's nice here, isn't it? // [8:4] To reach the town, we must cross the lagoon.

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[9:1] Don't worry. Apart from Kunawa 2 everyone else has left. // [9:2] Three should be directions at the crosses. // [9:3] Right. // [9:4] The old Kim would have thrown the canister away and been lost. // [9:5] The genie doesn't stop at anything. // [9:6] Further? // [9:7] Inscription: The Goddess was naked.

[10:1] I've confused Will and Can. // [10:2] But a genie is never naked, she only maintains the illusion. // [10:3] Jag: And? // Boatman: She doesn't ask any questions and she has courage. // [10:4] She'll need it. // [10:5] Kunawa? Kunawa 2?

[12:2] What's taking her so long? // [12:3] Good. The Goddess has your walk. // [12:4] Kim: What did you give me to let me manage that? // Kunawa 2: As long as my brother isn't beside me, I can't answer that. // [12:5] Come in. You're the right one. You hear the voice. // [12:6] What voice?

[14:1] Kim: Now I remember. The canister. You drugged me. // Kunawa 2: I hope it's not just the canister you remember. // [14:2] Kunawa 2: My brother sits in jail. Will you pay his fine? // Kim: Where is it? // Kunawa 2: Near Djena. // [14:3] Kunawa 2: His detention number is 12. // Kim: 12! // [14:4] Yes, 12 I remember. // [14:5] Kim: Sarakebi osma tusen. Shango mo atno. 12. That's what the voice said. // Kunawa 2: Shango is the old Doyo king. A bad one. A much feared ghost. The rest I don't understand either. // [14:6] My brother has the 12.

[16:1] Do stop by again. The inmates are clamouring for female company. // [16:3] Jag: So, have they freed him? // Kim: For that amount they should free them all. // [16:4] Kim: Who are they? // Jag: Zymba Motta's private police. He's one of the most powerful men in the country. Don't annoy them un-necessarily. // [16:5] Kunawa.

[18:1] Kunawa 2: The white woman I something different.. // Jag: Shall we go? // [18:2] We went. // [18:3] First we had to stop at an old office in Manokko. As far as I knew Lady Nelson fled her after her boat was over-run. With the help of a man named Charles Augery she started an expedition to track the perpetrators and to free their mysterious woman Jade, with the black pearl on her ear. // [18:4] No-one returned from the expedition. The elders reported of Father Anselm, who's founded the only sick-bay in the area. He took in a white man who spent weeks in fever and who'd amputated his own arm.

[20:1] Kim: We're going to Mr Mo first. // Jag: At this time of night. // Kim: I must speak with him. // [21:2] Jag: Shall I come with you? // Kim: No, it's not far from my bungalow. // [21:4] Mr Mo? // [21:5] Can I come in? // [21:6] Welcome, I'm very glad to see you. Are you hungry? // [21:7] I've prepared a little delicacy. My heart. I've ripped it out of my chest for you. The meat is very tender. You'll like the taste.

[22:1] Kim: How friendly. // Jag: They're annoyed. They're still suffering from a past they thought they'd overcome. // [22:2] Jag: And your Mr Mo's stirred it up again. Someone must have said it to him. Someone who likes a mystery. // Kim: And someone who wants to shock us with the Orushi's methods. And he's succeeded. I've never worried like this. // [22:3] I think I need some peace now. // [22:4] And a shower. I had palpitations though the night. My skin seemed so thin, as if the genie had loosened her grip. // [22:5] I thought I was stronger. // [22:6] You need strengthening. // [22:7] Here's a drink. Also from those times. // [22:8] Kim: Hand me the towel. // Kunawa 1: Why?

[11:6] Come. // [11:7] I won't manage that. // [11:8] Leave your body. Become Anaktu. // [11:9] That's what you say. If only it were that easy.

[13:1] Anaktu. // [13:2] Uh, yes? // [13:3] Sarakebi osma tusen 12. Shango mo atno. // [13:5] Kunawa. // [13:6] Kunawa. // [13:7] What happened? Who undressed me? // [13:8] Stand up. We're being collected.

[15:1] Here's the money. It's not a fine, it's a ransom. // [15:2] I'll take note of the insult. Is he next of kin? // [15:3] Kim: Not as such. Can I ask why he's in jail. // Policeman: He thrashed a policeman and stole his bicycle. // [15:4] Well, with that money your colleague can buy himself a motorcycle. A good trade. // [15:6] You have your number 12. You can wait for him by the door.

[17:2] Astounding, isn't it? // [17:3] Jag: They're completely alike. // Kim: I noticed. // [17:4] And how fit they are. // [17:5] Kunawa 2: Hello Brother. I came as soon as I could. // Kunawa 1: I know. Where did you get the money? // [17:6] From a white woman. // [17:7] Kunawa 1: And what does she want in exchange? // Kunawa 2: That we lead her and Jagger to a pearl. Anaktu's black pearl. // [17:8] Kunawa 1: The pearl brings bad luck. Anyone who looks for it is mad. // Kunawa 2: Jagger's not an idiot. He's seen a real opportunity. // Kunawa 1: Which is?

[19:1] And often lost his senses. He fantasised, and maintained that the Goddess Anaktu had punished him because he dared to look at her. Father Anselm abandoned him, and he died. He left a diary, though, with entries that backed-up his ghostly confusions. // [19:2] Who was the man? Did he belong to Lady Nelson and Augery's expedition? I'd have to read his diary. Governor Lasalle, former head of the Manokko office took possession of the book, and added it to his archive. // [19:4] What? // [19:6] We're finally here.

[21:2] It was expertly arranged. The bloody shirt, the drumming rain, the outstretched hand. He wasn't offering a human heart, but a piece of antelope. The result was fascinating. // [21:3] Jag: It's a warning. Give up. You know what happened to your accomplice. // Kim: And what was that? // [21:4] Mr Mo went mad. Someone poisoned him. // [21:5] Soggo. The milk of a tuber that grows in the old country. Where the Orushi live. // [21:6] Policeman: The Orushi were cannibals. They died out thirty years ago. We're following other leads. // Kim: I understand. // [21:7] Policeman: Weren't you locked up? // Kuynawa 2: My brother. He's free now. // [21:8] Okay. We're keeping our eyes on both of you.

[23:1] Kunawa 1: You're lovely. Are you afraid to show yourself? // Kim: True enough, you've already seen me naked. // [23:2] Kunawa 1: That was my brother Kunawa 2. I'm Kunawa 1. // Kim: Aha. // [23:3] Kim: Sorry. // Kunawa 1: It doesn't matter. You'll learn soon enough. Here, drink. // [23:4] Kim: Yes, therefore... // Kunawa 1: Distrustful? // Kim: If it's... // Kunawa 1: Soggo? Perhaps. You should know yourself whether to trust me. // [23:5] Trust. I could have done in another life. // [23:7] Kim: Kunawa. // Kunawa 1: Yes? // [23:8] I feel helpless with you. Don't you want to kiss me? // [23:9] Kunawa 1 never does that. Only Kunawa 2.

[24:1] Mr Mo: Pipiktu love Anaktu. Pipiktu was naughty, had to be punished. He was thirsty. Pipiktu was lonely. Sarakebi osma tusen. Empty 5 it. O Go Shango Go Shango. // Doctor: He's been like that since he was admitted. Delirious, as if sleeping. That's the worst of it. // [24:2] Like a fever that's devouring him from within. A fever that, with our knowledge, we're powerless before. // [24:3] Go.. Go Mr Shango... Pipiktu loves Anaktu. Pipiktu was naughty. // [24:4] It's me Mr Mo, Kim. // [24:5] Doctor: He'll not last much longer, I fear. // Kim: What's he talking about. Who is this Pipiktu? // Doctor: I've no idea. I asked everyone in the village, and they don't know either. // [24:6] Doctor: A lieutenant from Zymba Motta visited me. He interrogated Mr Mo and left disappointed again. // Kim: Interrogated? Why? // [24:7] Regarding you. Your planned expedition.

[28:1] These are Mr Mo's last words. He advises turning at the Manokko office. // [28:2] Kim: Where did you get these papers? // Jag: Uh...the police gave them back. // [28:3] They... they didn't need them any more. I thought they'd interest you. // [28:4] Kim: Manokko. Is that on our route? // Jag: If we go by river we'll save time. // [28:5] Kim: And who's that? // Jag: uh... He's called Suwani. He's substituting for a sick helper. // [28:6] Jag: The expedition is not without danger. Suwani knows the bush He'll be useful. // Kim: If you say so. // [28:7] Despite that, I don't like him.

[30:1] Jag: You liked Mr Mo a lot. You've taken his death to heart. // Kim: To heart? // [30:2] Recently I think I've heard my heart beating. It's imagination, no doubt. Then it's quiet again. // [30:3] Naturally I miss Mr Mo. He welcomed me so openly and listened to me. I think I won him over. Despite having retired, he started working again. He knew so much. // [30:4] Jag: You're not showing yourself of late. You're burying your feelings. // Kim: So? // [30:5] That was no doubt the delicate young thing that swooned into the arms of the first best man. I don't feel like that at the moment. // [30:6] Jag: So you won't kiss me? // Kim: You don't appeal to me Jagger. // Jag: You like blacks better? // Kim: Have you got a complex? // [30:7] You're a bitch. I don't know what's stopping me... // Kim: A last residue of the playground, I take it. Not much, but enough. // [30:8] In the morning we're going to Manokko. There we'll meet the rest of the expedition.

[32:1] Kim: Does the river flow past Father Anselm's sick bay? // Jag: We'd need to take an adjoining river, one that bends around Manokko. Why? The village is deserted. No-one goes there any more. // [32:2] Perhaps. On old maps one often finds indications. If we follow the old routes Jagger we won't regret it. // [32:3] Okay. Get some sleep then. Tomorrow will be tough going. // [32:4] I must trust my instincts. It's Jade's voice. // [32:5] Kim: Are you staying with us? // Yes, we're taking a detour. // [32:6] This section is hard, but after that we'll push directly to the three peaks.

[34:1] Nothing more to find here. // [34:3] Room number 5. // [34:4] Those were Mr Mo's last words. mSarakebi osma tusen empty 5. Is that coincidence or... // [34:5] This was Jade's cabin. // [34:8] This bottle must have belonged to her.

[36:1] Anaktu. // [36:2] I don't want to. Let me go. Let me free. // [36:5] Kim. // [36:6] Anaktu hungers. // [36:7] She needs a doctor at once. // [36:8] The boat. The boat's dying.

[25:1] Mr Jagger? // [25:2] Jag: That's me. How can I help? // Soldier: Come with us. Our boots would like to speak with you. // Jag: Who's your boss. // [25:3] Zymba Motta. // [25:4] The last. // [25:5] Motta: Good. When can I see the prints? // Photographer: At the end of the week. I'll deliver them personally. // [25:6] That's acceptable. You can leave now. // [25:7] Motta: I've got ten minutes for you Mr Jagger. You know who I am. // Jag: A man whose invitation has consequences, Mr Motta. // [pp:26] // [26:1] Then I'll come to the point. I heard that the cursed Mr Mo has died. Searching his home, the police found these notes. // [26:2] They concern the #Orushi and a black pearl on a woman's ear. Possibly the pearl of the Goddess Anaktu. // [26:3] A white is financing an expedition looking for the pearl. She'll only get so far. A warning for hoodlums as to who their master is now. // [26:4] It would be a sacrilege for the pearl to fall into foreign hands. It's part of our mythology, our roots, our history. // [26:5] So, you'll look for this pearl, and then give it over to me. // [26:6] And if not? // [26:7] You want to defy Zymba Motta? You know the consequences. // [26:8] One of my men will accompany you. His name is Suwani, and he has my complete trust. He'll regularly inform me of your progress. // [26:9] My team is complete. Another man could cause problems.

[27:1] Problems? // [27:2] I don't think so. // [27:3] Now you've a man less. The problem is solved. // [27:4] Daily reports and success. I demand no more from you. // [27:5] Zym-ba Mot-ta, Zym-ba Mot-ta. // [27:6] The white woman cannot survive. // [27:7] She will have an accident.

[29:1] What's that then. // [29:2] Look at that. // [29:4] An owl mask. // [29:5] He's someone who looks into the past. Somewhere around here there must be a burial ground. // [29:6] Correct. // [29:7] They're burying Mr Mo.

[31:1] We needed to two days to reach inland, but we didn't pass all those in the canoes. // [31:2] Jag: Ready for adventure? // Kim: For everything. Surprises as well. // [31:3] Hang on. Those guys on the banks look like... // [31:4] Exactly. Zymba Motta's militia. We're in his territory. // [31:5] Kim: Is he watching over us? // Jag: I don't think so, but we'll stay alert.

[33:1] Jagger! // [33:2] Look at that! // [33:3] Kim: Unbelievable. Is that? // Jag: Yes, that's Jade and the Nelsons' boat. // [33:4] Jag: Careful. I fear that's not a good idea. // Kim: Don't worry. I'll watch out. // [33:5] What a smell.

[35:1] It still smells nice. // [35:4] Anaktu. // [35:5] No, let me go. // [35:6] No, please, don't. // [35:7] Anaktu. Anajitu. anaktu.

[37:1] The time was right. With a final crack, the boat shattered and sunk. It was as if it had awaited this moment to forever disappear in oblivion. // [37:2] And Miss Nelson refuses to forget. She's looking for traces of her ancestors. She wants to discover their fate. Do you mean the English and their expedition to the Orushi? I've heard the legend. // [37:3] Jag: Every legend holds a kernel of truth. Do you know which whites Father Anselm associated with? // Doctor: No, but if you'd like I could check our archives. // [37:4] Yes, we'd like that.

Doctor: Ah, you're on your feet again. Has the fever gone? // Kim: I'm so grateful to you doctor. I don't know what you gave me, but I feel born again. // [38:2] Kim: I also owe you thanks. // Jag: Yeah, well, I had the opportunity to take you in my arms. // [38:3] But I couldn't enjoy it properly. We were in a hurry. // [38:4] Kim: What happened? I smelled the contents of a small bottle and fainted. // Doctor: What was in the bottle? // [38:5] It must have been Jade's perfume. I'm certain. The smell of the past is intoxicating, but occasionally harmful. // [38:6] Nowadays I smell the stink of evil. // [38:7] Ah! There are the Kunawas with the rest of the expedition.

[40:1] The diary of the man that Father Anselm took in. I think you'll like it from the first line. // [40:2] Don't expect too much, miss. Old documents from days gone by are unlikely to unlock things. // [40:3] The book consists of one sentence constantly repeated. I don't understand. // [40:4] Diary: Pipiktu loved Anaktu. Pipiktu was naughty, had to be punished. He was thirsty. Pipiktu was lonely. Sarakebi osma tusen. 19 and 2. O Go Shango Go Shango. Pipiktu loved Anaktu. Pipiktu was naughty, had to be punished. He was thirsty. Pipiktu was lonely. Sarakebi osma tusen. 19 and 2. O Go Shango Go Shango. // [40:5] Kim: That was what Mr Mo was repeating just before he died. // Millaro: I'm sorry I don't know anything more. // [40:6] Kim: Is there any indication where this white man was buried? // Official: It's the only grave from that time still preserved. Thank Millaro. // [40:7] Kim: Millaro? // Official: He's the area's biggest landowner. Encompassing around 700,000 hectares if you'd like to know. // [40:8] Millaro likes to show that in the centre of his awesome fiefdom, namely here in Manokko, that one finds an area that the touch of time has spared. Precisely here is the grave of the man with the missing hand.

[42:1] I'm descended from Charles Augery and a black woman that he loved. My father was adopted by Millaro. But we've not forgotten anything. // [42:2] That your here now has a sense of wonder. Without you I'd never have dared. You know, one needs both names. // [42:3] Nelson and Augery. It's our story. The story of two whites that set off on an expedition from which no-one returned. Except one. // [42:4] Millaro: The corpse in this grave. I strongly believe it's my forefather Charles Augery. // Kim: Or someone else. // [42:5] Millaro: What do you mean? // Kim: The other white man in your story. Lord Nelson was captured alongside Jade by the Orushi. // [42:6] We'll know soon. Sometimes the dead speak to the living. // [42:7] You're not going to... // [42:8] Yes. Now that you're here there's nothing stopping me.

[44:1] Pipiktu lonely. // [44:2] Am I disturbing you? // [44:3] No, no. I only wanted to be alone for a while. // [44:4] Millaro: Pipiktu is Lord Nelson, isn't he? // Kim: Someone that Anaktu loved in any case. Or her incarnation, Jade. Someone who was punished for this love so consequently the Goddess belonged only to her people. // [44:5] Was her punished? // [44:6] I asked Millaro to leave me alone.

[46:1] He'll survive. // [46:2] Doctor: But it was close. He'd already lost a lot of blood when he was found. // Kim: And his hand? // [46:3] Luckily there was no gangrene, but Mr Millaro must learn to live with a prosthetic hand. That is if he wants one. // [46:4] Miss Nelson. // [46:5] In the drawer there's a photo for you. // [46:8] My family. That's my family. And the man is... Good God. // [46:9] Kim, dear Kim, don't let your courage fail you. Carry on if you want to know the whole truth.

[39:1] Millaro: What's that alarm? // Don't you know? Jagger's off on another adventure. // [39:2] Millaro: Jagger! // A British woman has hired him to find an old idol, an Orushi Goddess. // [39:3] A British woman. Perhaps my waiting was worthwhile. // [39:4] Come on. We're getting visitors. // [39:5] This is where we file the archives of the entire district. WE also have the documents from Father Anselm's old sick bay. // [39:6] Here's what you mentioned Mr Jagger.

[41:2] I've been waiting for you. // [41:3] Come on. // [41:5] The grave of the man with the missing hand. My family have always wanted to know how he was.

[43:7] Pipiktu! Pipiktu loves Anaktu. Pipiktu's punishment. // [43:8] Cut off.

[45:1] And me? Who'll tell me what became of Charles Augery? // [45:2] Ashavi! // [45:4] Akana mo. // [45:5] Roll up his sleeve. // [45:6] Millaro: Who are you? What are you doing? // Warrior: You opened the grave. You weren't allowed. // [45:7] The bones in the Earth belong to us. You've damaged the legend. // [45:8] Can you survive our legend? // Millaro: No! Don't!