

# ***THE KINGDOM OF AZERECK PT. 6***

## ***BATTLE FOR AZERECK***

Based on a story by Chrisvin Jabamani



The fighting in Azereck continued to get worse. Although most of the fights were only yelling at each other, sometimes people got hurt. It wasn't all out war, yet.

Those who supported Minzo demanded that he be made king. They wanted him to replace King Walter.

Those who supported Rom wanted the same thing for him. King Walter was confused. His kingdom was now at war with itself and he had no way to stop it. Even his soldiers had taken sides in the conflict.

Azereck was defenseless against an attack by any kingdom.

Minzo and Rom enjoyed the loyalty of their followers. They had meetings with them and helped to plan strategies against the other.

One day a rider on a fast horse approached the castle. He was carrying the Azereck banner. Once inside the castle walls he demanded to see the king.

"Your majesty," he said as he bowed in respect before the king. "I have some very bad news to give to you. The Kingdom of War is preparing to invade your kingdom. They're looking for revenge because you kidnapped their king. They're making ready the attack as we speak. The Kingdom of War has been preparing for this for over two months. They're ready to begin the attack. They know that our kingdom is split, and that is what the king of the Kingdom of War was hoping for.

"Your majesty, you don't have much time. The army is ready to attack you," the

messenger gave the bad news to Walter.

“Bring Rom and Minzo here NOW!” the king yelled. “I have had enough of this nonsense. I want them in my throne room NOW!” the king yelled in a manner no one had ever seen before.

It took several hours for the soldiers to find Minzo and Rom. At first they didn’t want to respond to the king’s request, but after they heard the news about the Kingdom of War, they rushed to the throne room.

Rom arrived first. He was out of breath. He sat at the table in front of the throne and waited for Minzo.

Minzo got there a few minutes later also winded from running to the castle.

As soon as he sat down the king entered. Then everyone in the room bowed in respect.

King Walter sat down on his throne. He did not look happy.

Sounding very much like a king, Walter looked at the boys and then said to them, “I’m tired of all this fighting. I was hoping it would all go away. It’s my fault for selecting two of you to be princes, I realize that, but we have a much bigger problem now. The Kingdom of War is ready to attack. We don’t have much time before they get here. We are not ready. Thanks to the two of you our kingdom is divided against itself. As things stand now, we might as well open our doors and let them in. We have no defense.

“Do either of you have any ideas on how to stop this ridiculous conflict and prepare ourselves for the army of the Kingdom of War?” the king finished still looking deep into the eyes of the two princes.

Rom and Minzo looked at each other.

The king continued, “You realize that if we are defeated by the Kingdom of War, neither one of you will have a throne to sit on and most likely you will not survive. I suggest you figure out a way to resolve this or we will all be killed.”

The two princes heard the king and realized that he was right. Somehow they had

to stop the fighting among themselves and build an army to defend the kingdom.

“I hope you come up with a plan soon. It’s all in your hands young men. We will live or die by your decisions,” King Walter said just before he left the throne room.

Rom looked at Minzo. Minzo was looking at the floor. They were both thinking about what the king had just said.

Minzo looked over at Rom.

“I think he’s right. We have to stop fighting and protect Azereck. I’m willing to stop if you are,” Minzo said as he put out his hand for Rom to shake.

Rom stood still for a moment and then took Minzo’s hand and shook it.

“How do we start?” Rom asked.

“I have an idea. Follow me,” Minzo said as he was already heading out of the throne room. He ran up the stairs followed closely by Rom. They burst into the upper chamber and threw open the doors to the balcony that overlooked the castle courtyard.

(This was the same place where the king of the Kingdom of Azereck had asked for a volunteer to go the Kingdom of War and kidnap the king.)

Rom and Minzo stood side-by-side.

Minzo yelled in as loud a voice as possible, “People of Azereck! We are your princes. Listen to us!”

Some of the people below looked up. They began to call others to come. Soon the entire courtyard was full of people curious as to why the two princes were standing together on the balcony.

Both Minzo and Rom motioned for the people to be quiet.

Minzo began, “My fellow Azerecks. We face dire dangers. The Kingdom of War is preparing to invade our kingdom. We have little time to prepare ourselves. Rom and I have agreed to settle our differences. We ask that you do the same!”

Minzo then turned to Rom and gave him a hug. Rom returned the hug and then holding each other’s hand they held their hands in the air.

Rom spoke up, “We need your help if we are to defend our kingdom. Will you join

us?”

A resounding noise rose from the courtyard. It got louder and louder until everyone in the courtyard was yelling in agreement.

“Spread the word that we need capable young men to help us defend our kingdom. Tell them that Rom and Minzo are united in the fight to protect what belongs to all Azerecks.”

Rom and Minzo summoned the best soldiers to the castle. They met in the dining hall and laid out the plans to defend the kingdom. They knew that they would have to do something very different. If they locked themselves in the castle, the Kingdom of War would be victorious.

They spent all night in the dining hall, only stopping to eat. Many ideas were shared and many were rejected. Rom and Minzo used the knowledge of warfare they had learned in their classes to help with the strategy. They looked at ancient texts to find ways to surprise the oncoming troops. As the sun was coming up in the morning, the meeting ended with a cheer. They had a plan and they were certain it was going to work.

Men poured into the castle volunteering to fight. Some were loyal to Rom and some were loyal to Minzo. At this moment it didn't matter. They were there to defend Azereck.

The training began. The princes had assigned generals to be in charge of each phase of the plan. The castle and the surrounding fields were busy day and night with the sounds of metal striking metal as the new soldiers learned how to handle a sword.

King Walter instructed the blacksmiths in the kingdom on the creation of fine weapons. They were light yet very strong. King Walter was seen in the blacksmith shop working on weapons himself. He was happy and he was working hard. He told those around him that he missed the days of working with his hands. Walter was faster at making weapons than any of the other blacksmiths in the kingdom, and his weapons were of the best quality.

The new recruits worked hard. They listened to the instructors, and they were

trained for very special missions. The people of the kingdom were once again united. Rom and Minzo walked around the training grounds giving advice and instructions themselves. They were seen together most of the time showing that they were committed to working as a team. King Walter could not have been prouder of them.

It had been two weeks of intense training when a messenger arrived. He told Minzo and Rom that the army of the Kingdom of War was on its way. They were marching toward Azereck and they would arrive within two weeks. He told them that the King of the Kingdom of War knew that they were preparing for the fight, but he was confident that the civil war had taken a big toll on the army and that Azereck would not be able to defend itself.

This was good news for Rom and Minzo. If the King of the Kingdom of War was overconfident, then their job would be much easier.

Now the plan was going into effect.

Minzo was in charge of the defense from the west and Rom the east.

The next day the army assembled in the courtyard. Minzo, Rom and the king stood on the balcony.

King Walter addressed the crowd, "My fellow Azerecks. Today is the most important day in the history of our kingdom. The Kingdom of War is approaching. They think that we are divided and that we are unable to defend ourselves. I tell you today. We are ready for this battle and we will be victorious!"

The crowd let out a boisterous cheer that echoed throughout the valley. The army was ready.

A week later Minzo made plans to leave the protection of the castle under the protection of darkness.

That night, after midnight, Minzo and his men left the castle and headed towards the east. They would travel by night so that the spies from the Kingdom of War would not be able to report their position to the king of the Kingdom of War.

Two nights later Rom did the same going to the west.

The king felt nervous. What if Minzo and Rom decided to fight again. They each had a well-trained army under their command. He could only hope that they had truly decided to work for Azereck.

One group of men remained in the castle. They would be under the king's authority. They their took posts along the walls of the castle alongside dummies made of straw. The idea was to make it appear that the castle was well defended. At the top of the walls were large metal bowls filled with oil. The moat around the castle was full of water. Large poles were sharpened pointing at an angle making it difficult for horses to get through. Large ditches had been dug and filled with water to make it more difficult to move the catapults close to the castle. Big holes were dug with straw covering them so marching soldiers would fall into them. Large piles of dried grass were put in the field approaching the castle that could be lit on fire from arrows shot from the castle. The castle was ready to defend itself from an attack.

Three days later the flags of the oncoming army could be seen rising above the horizon. The bright reds and yellows of the flags foretold the army's arrival. The townspeople had left and gone to the countryside. It was silent except for the sound of the soldiers marching towards the castle. It was an eerie sound and it grew louder the closer the army got to its goal.

King Walter stood on the wall of the castle and looked out at the approaching army. The flags went as far as the eye could see. If it was not for these circumstances, the sight of the soldiers would be very impressive.

They were about a day away from the castle when the army stopped and set up their camp.

White tents popped up on the hills to the south of the castle. Men were moving from place to place and horses carried soldiers from right to left.

As the sun went down the yellow glow of the fires lit up the night sky. Chants and songs echoed across the expanse of the open field in front of the castle.

As the night grew darker the fires began to grow dim. The sounds of singing and

chanting died down and the only thing in the air was the smell of smoke. Crickets chirped and frogs croaked. The night became very quiet.

Suddenly there was the loud scream of hundreds of men as Minzo and Rom attacked the sleeping soldiers. Minzo from the left and Rom from the right.

At first a thousand burning arrows poured down from the sky onto the tents. The entire encampment began to glow. The soldiers from the Kingdom of War were running in circles. They did not know what to do.

Minzo's men ran into the camp swinging their light but sharp swords. Rom and his men did the same. In a short time the army of the Kingdom of War was defeated. They were completely surprised.

The king of the Kingdom of War was brought to the castle at Azereck. He was brought before King Walter.

"We have defeated you and now it is time for you to give up your kingdom. I have defeated you the same way I defeated your father," King Walter said to the king of the Kingdom of War.

"So, you are the one who kidnapped my father. Now you have me. You have done well King Walter. You have surprised everyone. No one thought that a blacksmith's son would be so clever," the king said to King Walter.

With that the king was taken away.

"Bring Minzo and Rom here. I want to speak to them," King Walter ordered his sentries.

It wasn't long before Minzo and Rom were before the king.

"You've made me and the people of Azereck very proud. You've proven yourselves worthy to be princes. The Kingdom of Azereck is in your debt.

"I've made a decision. I am stepping down as king of Azereck. The past few weeks have shown me that I prefer a simpler life. I want to return to being simply Walter Gressler.

"Therefore, before I leave my duties as king I've decided the following.

“Minzo, as the winner of the contest to become the crowned prince of Azereck, I declare that you will be my successor.

“As for you Rom, I’m giving you the throne of the Kingdom of War. I hope you don’t find that war is your friend. I hope that you and Minzo can remain friends and that between the two of you peace can remain in the region,” the king said.

He took off his crown and placed it on Minzo’s head. He then took the crown he had taken from the king of the Kingdom of War and placed it on Rom’s head.

He then bowed before the kings and waved good-bye as he left his robe across the throne.

Walter and Azul would live the rest of their lives as simple people. Walter made the finest weapons the region had ever seen.

Minzo and Rom ruled their kingdoms wisely and fairly. Never before had the region experienced such peace and cooperation.

**The End**