

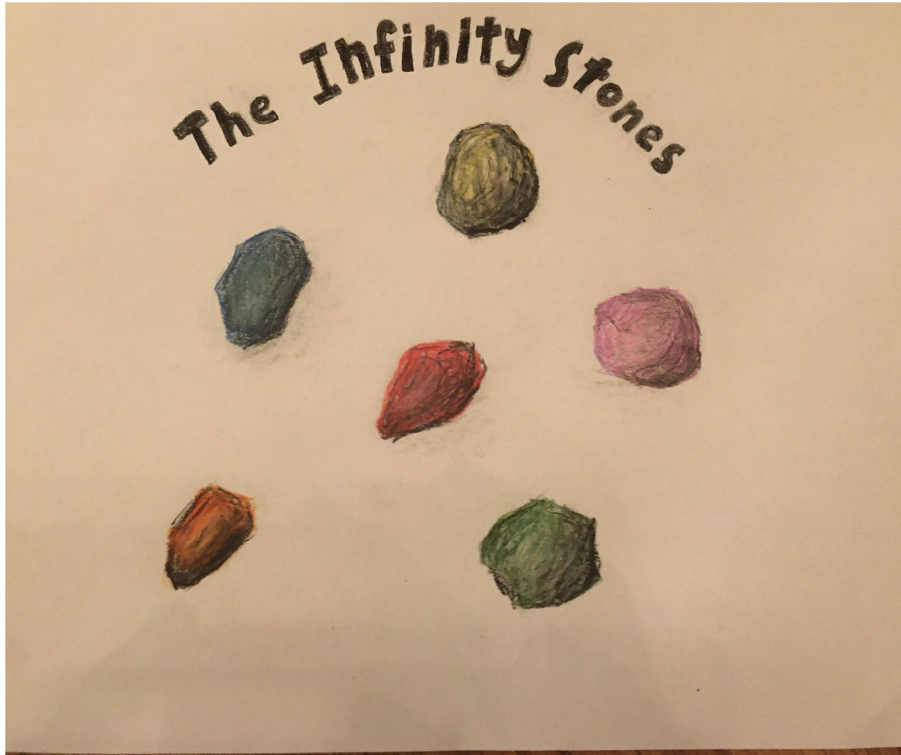
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The Making of an Army

Competition. That's what Thanos and Aleria lived for. Brother and sister, each wanting to outclass the other. Widespread famine made the titan and his sister have to leave their long cherished home on a far away moon in the milky way galaxy. They were different; both born with a genetic mutation causing the color of their skin to develop into a deep purple. They were outcast from their home, but because of this, they were some of the only titans to survive the slow chaos that spread over their moon.

After all they had been through, they were both driven to achieve great things. Many years ago, Thanos and his sister had had one main goal in mind, to collect all the six infinity stones, and put them into the gauntlet their father had given Thanos when he was a small child. With some luck - some might say miracles - they managed to amass the infinity stones. The infinity stones are made of the most valuable material in the universe. In the rarest of cases, a star will form with the ability to create heavier elements than iron, such as gold and uranium, in its core. When it runs out of all possible fuel, these stars explode and an unimaginable amount of energy is released. This energy allows for the creation of heavier elements previously never seen in the universe. 6 new elements is the exact number, one for each infinity stone. If two such stars were to explode within a close enough proximity to each other (so rare that it has only happened once in the entire history of the universe) enough of these new elements could bind together to create 6 small crystals- crystals with the power to manipulate the very threads of the universe.

Thanos and Aleria scoured the universe in search of these 6 stones that were created, and at last they found them all.



They couldn't have done it, however, without their many loyal followers who helped search and give them information. While Thanos and his sister had achieved a seemingly insurmountable feat, they wanted more. They wanted an army.

Staying true to their competitive spirit, together they came up with a challenge. The first titan to create an

army of equally powerful beings loyal to their creators, would keep the prized infinity gauntlet. They set out in different directions, but they both had the same intention - to be the one to win the infinity gauntlet.

Their rules stated that neither one of them were allowed to harness the power of the infinity gauntlet to amass their army, but Thanos had no intention of abiding by the rules. He managed to trick Aleria with a nearly identical replica of the infinity gauntlet forged on the planet Cerberus. He took the real one for himself, obtaining the power of the universe in his hand.

Thanos drove the ship forward until all he could see was darkness. Abruptly, his ship's sensors were triggered. According to the pilot of the ship, there was a giant disk of gas and dust ahead. It sparked an idea in Thanos. Thanos took control of the ship and steered the ship to the center of the disk. While he prepared the gauntlet, Thanos questioned if all this was worth the risk, but he knew his sister would do the same given the opportunity.

With the infinity stones firmly in his grip, Thanos hoped their power would shield him from the harsh vastness of space. Slowly he stepped out of the emergency lock. He could feel the empty chill brush his skin, but nothing he couldn't handle. The blessing of the infinity stones had granted him protection. He slowly started to put the six infinity stones in their rightful place within the gauntlet. Once the last

stone was placed, immense power flowed through him. Channeling the universe, he spun his hand in a counter-clockwise direction, sending ripples of gravity out through space.

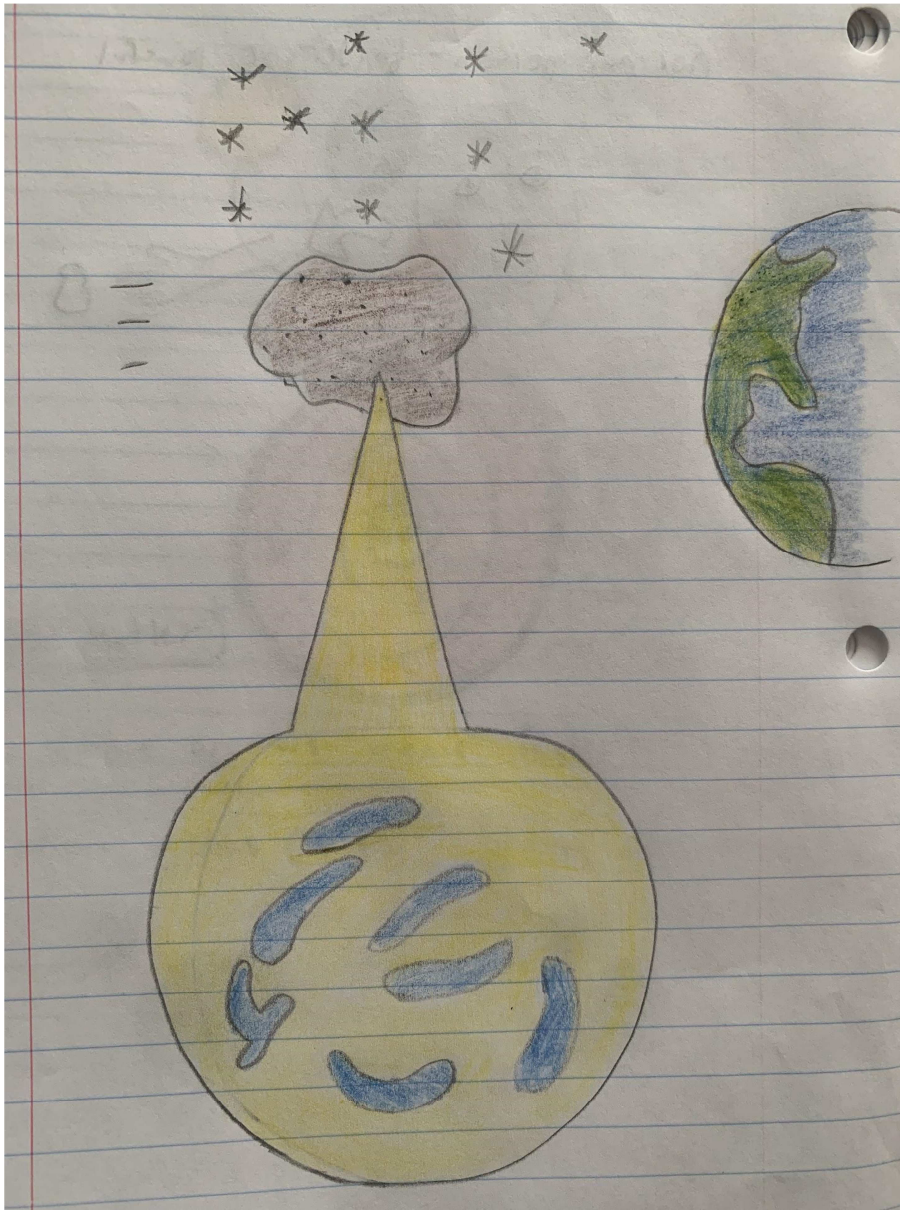


As the gas and dust surrounding the ship started rotating in the same direction around him, Thanos barked at the pilot to vacate the inner zone. As soon as the ship departed, the inner portion completely collapsed, the collective mass slowly forming into a flaming sphere of mostly hydrogen and helium - a star.

Thanos pondered what to name the star. He thought of his father. Like most children, all he ever wanted to do was please his father. He wanted him to be proud of his only son. That was the perfect name he thought, "Sun".

In the aftermath of the formation of his star, there was much gas and dust revolving around the sun - remnants of the collapse. The dust started forming into larger and larger masses, and then into planets. They orbited the sun counterclockwise, with the Sun being one focus of the elliptical orbits. As the formation of the planets stabilized, 10 boiling masses of liquid rock emerged. Everything was too hot for life, so with another wave of his gauntlet he cooled down the newly made solar system, solidifying a thin top layer on each planet. He needed to pick a planet for his army. He realized that with just a little work, he could make a certain planet a goldilocks zone. He named this planet Earth.

Thanos had an excess of time before everything cooled down enough for the creation of life, so he paid a visit to Aleria. He found her many light years away in a galaxy not too far from where they grew up. Without the infinity gauntlet, her only option was to try to create an army from organisms of a pre-existing solar system. She had chosen a binary star system with many planets. Although she may have had suspicions, Aleria never figured out that Thanos had taken the infinity gauntlet. Her planet had just been unexpectedly hit by a large asteroid, debris disrupting the sunlight the planet received. The entire planet was completely frozen over. The civilization she was developing did not have the resources or



intelligence to survive the harsh conditions. They all died within a week - Aleria angered and annoyed at her failed attempt. Thanos, secretly relieved, wished her good luck and went on his way.

Once he came back to his own solar system, he looked at all that he had created, but there was still no life. Thanos was furious. After all this time, there wasn't even an inkling of a live organism! He had done everything right, where did he go wrong? In a fit of rage he sent one of the ten planets flying into Earth. The result was astounding. The planet's gravity distorted the Earth's surface, and as the planets collided, the core

of the incoming planet combined with Earth's core. Debris from the collision blasted into space and formed a red hot ring of dust and rock, circling Earth. This ring slowly started to form together into a solid mass of rock, closely orbiting earth. Both masses pulled on each other, revolving quickly on their individual axis. The moon moved further, and they both slowed, the moon appearing to stop, only rotating once every time it orbited the Earth.

As Thanos watched in awe, he was disrupted by a loud shrieking noise. Struck out of his daze, he sat up. Looking around frantically for the source of the sound, he was surprised to see a couple large rocks hurtling towards his new planet. Thanos sprung into action, but was too late. The asteroid struck

Earth, and Thanos flinched. It seemed like forever went by while he watched, but he knew he was forced to wait. So he waited, and waited, and waited. When the dust finally settled (after some months, years, who knew at this point), he saw something beautiful; something worth all of that time. Life.

Asteroids like that one had brought all the ingredients for life into the planet, and now the tides that were brought upon the Earth by the moon stirred the ingredients together. Thanos marveled as everything started to come together. When Thanos was a boy, his father always told tales of life being created on a planet. Thanos thought it was just a child's story then, but now he had become aware of the sheer power that was being portrayed in front of his very eyes.

But he was not done, for he still had to wait for these single-celled organisms on Earth to turn into more advanced creatures, or so he hoped. There was a possibility that catastrophes could happen; some that Thanos himself could not prevent. So, Thanos waited and hoped.

As life became more and more advanced, the solar system around this planet had changed greatly. To protect Earth from meteors, he used the gauntlet to create a gravity wall towards the outskirts of the solar system that would catch the meteors before they could even get past the bigger planets. He called it the asteroid belt, and he believed that it would help keep Earth safe while he was making adjustments to the other planets in the solar system.

Thanos noticed something peculiar, the orbits of the moons of each of the planets had changed. The moons' orbits were spreading out, and although the change was very slight, it was definitely noticeable. But besides looking into that, Thanos thought that one of the planets needed an improvement. He called this planet Saturn, after his uncle Satorius. His uncle always wore an idiotic crown, and thinking back on the crown gave Thanos an idea. He created another, smaller gravity well around the planet, which he hoped would catch dust in the shape of his uncle's crown. Enough fooling around, though, because Thanos needed to check up on Earth.

Thanos was extremely happy with how his new planet had turned out, with huge, powerful looking animals roaming all around. In Thanos' native tongue, they called big, fearful animals dino. Dino means greatly feared and powerful, so he called them dinosaurs after the old phrase. Thanos also noticed how colorful the planet was, with booming vegetation everywhere making the Earth look green, and vast oceans making the Earth look blue. There was only one huge landmass, that was solid green with flecks of white.

True beauty had been erected on this planet, and this led Thanos to believe he was going to win for sure. As he walked away, he saw the asteroid belt was starting to fill up. He saw it as peculiar, but nothing serious, so he went to check up on Saturn's crown. As he noticed how well the plan had worked out, he heard it again. That dreadful, sad, noise. The shrieking began again. He couldn't reach the planet

in time to stop the impact, but he was unlucky enough to bear witness to its destruction. An asteroid had escaped his entrapment, and now millions, maybe billions of years were down the drain.

After the Asteroid struck, Earth was enveloped in a cloud of dust kicked up in collision. This blocked out all of the sunlight. This caused temperatures to drop dangerously low all over the planet and eventually led to the mass extinction of many species. The vibrant ball of life had turned into a frozen wasteland.

In the aftermath of the mass extinction, a few species remained but most of the larger reptiles that once inhabited the Earth were gone. This was a huge setback for Thanos who had already planned to make the Dinosaurs a part of his army.

Since Thanos now had to wait more time for life to evolve, he decided to go pay Aleria another visit to see if he still had his lead on her. When he got there, he saw that Aleria was not doing great and that she was still having a hard time recovering from the meteor that hit her planet. Thanos was relieved that he was winning. He went back to Earth and since it took him a while there were already a few new species that had arisen after the collision with the asteroid. This made Thanos much happier. As Thanos happily watched the Earth he noticed that the landmasses of the planet had shifted and were now separated into multiple continents. This seemed weird to Thanos but he just assumed that this was because of the asteroid that had hit the Earth. Many years after the big explosion a strange type of species that doesn't hatch out of eggs was born Thanos called them mammals. These mammals were mainly just little furry animals that could never be a part of a great army.

After a bit of waiting, Thanos saw a mammal with a furry body, but a not hairy face, but most of all they had opposable thumbs much like the one Thanos himself had. Although this was a good sign, this creature lacked intelligence and was mischievous and only liked to eat a yellow fruit that they peeled with their opposable thumbs.

Thanos also realized that there were oceans that could potentially have advanced life in them, and not just the fish that evolved into land animals. When Thanos did go to look for life under the water he was shocked to find a thriving ecosystem filled with big aquatic creatures and colorful plants that could survive in the water, but most importantly he found a fearsome animal with multiple layers of razor sharp

Ultimately ruled it out

because of
their inability
to speak, and
breathe
oxygen.



After he spent a great deal of time pondering, the titan went into a mad rage, slaughtering everything in sight. For nothing on this planet was acceptable to join the ranks of their army.

One of the infinity stones held the power to manipulate time itself. Thanos had been using it to speed up the formation of the solar system. It still took time, but it made it so that he wouldn't have to suffer through billions of years of waiting. Then Thanos had an idea, he was tired of anticipating what his planet would become, and was growing extremely impatient. He decided to use the time stone to skip far into the future. He knew it would destroy the stone. It had never been used like that before, but he didn't care. He would have his army.

Thanos summoned an enormous amount of power, and as the world around him started to dissolve, he looked at the gauntlet on his hand and saw the Time stone breaking apart. His world reformed, and the time stone vanished, gone forever. But now the stone wasn't his primary focus.

From his far away view in space Thanos could see ridiculously bright lights coming from the continents down below. He marveled at the sight, and wondered what smart strong being could be waiting for him down there. "Why is there no light coming from the oceans?" he asked himself. Because back in his time, the closest animal to being worthy of joining his army called the sea their home. Nevertheless, he descended on his prized planet, and hoped that he would defeat Aleria.

Once he had touched down to Earth, Thanos looked around. Thanos' eyes went wide with shock. He had expected to see a 10 foot giant, but instead he stood face to face with a strange creature.

The stupid yellow fruit lovers were the ones to evolve into the main inhabitants of the planet. The truth hit Thanos hard. He instantly wiped out the entire city with one gesture of his hand, his rage was starting to get the best of him. Most likely his sister had already beaten him in the challenge.

That night he proposed a new plan to himself- to wipe out half of the human population. His reasoning was that he wanted to make room for other possible species to take over, while leaving enough humans to evolve into something stronger. He realized that not only was the human population getting too big, but they were also messing up the planet that he had created.

After the humans heard that a non-earthly, immensely powerful entity had breached the atmosphere and was roaming the earth, the team of Avengers set out to find him. Through the expertise of agent Nick Fury they tracked and identified him as Thanos, the titan with a taste for power and destruction. But the most frightening thing was that he had the infinity gauntlet (they had heard stories of the powerful infinity stones, but never thought they would be real), and by their calculations, he intended to use it.

They tracked him to a jungle in Africa. He was kneeling down under a massive tree. He seemed to notice their presence and got up from his pensive state. He greeted them all by name, which they found very odd. "My children, it's too late" Thanos said, with eyes as black as the outskirts of space. They

charged toward Thanos, but before they could reach him, he held up his gauntlet. "It is inevitable" Thanos said as he snapped his fingers together - wiping out half the population.

