

As fast as Bowser grew, Kamek thought, or tried to. It proved harder and harder, the larger his Lord's bulk pressed and bullied out against him, crushing out his reason and rhyme. Even the sounds were against him, as the Magikoopa was assaulted by swells of great, stretching mass. Scales pulled tighter over mounting muscles, the rumble of the landscape rearranging unhappily under feet as big as cities; the air vibrated with growth, all sensation forfeit to the sheer presence of Bowser.

Even as the spurt finally ceased, the last of the spells having died off below, the aftereffects rumbled on in Kamek's head, and rebuilding the damage proved embarrassingly trying.

"HMM?" Bowser eventually grunted, his lidded eyes going wide and dumb again. "WHAT, IS IT OVER, ALREADY? HEY!"

At 300 miles in height, practically as big as a state, even the mighty Kamek was a mere speck against Bowser—a *bug*, more aptly. All that ruckus the sorcerer had been resisting suddenly seemed pleasant, compared to the volcanic eruption of Bowser's griping. Everything shook, rattling Kamek so hard that he forgot his own name.

His sight wobbled wild as, far, far overhead, beyond the horizon of his huge pectorals, Bowser's face loomed. In fact, it was practically the entire sky. And the sky was *ticked*.

"COME ON, COME ON," Bowser boomed, furrowing incalculable brows. "I KNOW YOU'RE DOWN THERE, KAMEK! GET YOUR FLUNKIES BLASTING ME EVEN BIGGER, BEFORE I CRUSH YOU TO MAGIC POWDER! THEY DO WHAT YOU SAY, SO GIVE THE ORDER!"

At long last, something shot through the haze, and struck Kamek back to his senses.

*They do what you say. Yes...yes, they do, don't they?*

*Of course! He has to let you speak, to get what he wants. He can't stop you before you command them, he expects you to do what he says! I bet he can't even hear, all the way up there, beyond the atmosphere. And I know what to say. I know just what to say!*

"EHEE-HEE," Kamek snorted, unable to help chuckling. It could work. It *would* work! "FELLOW KAMEKS, OF THE KAMEK ARMY! HEED ME!"

So, so far down on the crushed, snapped ground, over 50,000 clones all shot back to attention, looking up in full attention. The order followed suit:

"PICK A CLONE...AND MAKE HIM ABSOLUTELY GARGANTUAN! BIGGER THAN EVER, AND STRONGER THAN EVER! QUICKLY! MAXIMUM-POWER SPELLS!"

High up in the reaches of early space, Bowser waited, unsuccessfully. His grimace broke here and there, showing titanic teeth as he started up a sour grumble.

"I *KNOW* HE HEARD ME..."

Tens of thousands of Kameks all turned to a single humble clone, who blushed under his glasses and nodded knowingly—perhaps, even, enthusiastically. He cleared his throat and squared up in preparation, as thousands upon thousands of wands took aim at him, beginning to glow brighter and

brighter still. Even being a separate part of Kamek, the clone-elect must have withheld some autonomy, because for one moment, as the spells blasted forth at him, he winced. Such fledgling fears dissolved in an abrupt, explosive eruption of growth; not even the clone's gasp could escape as he instantly inflated out against his robe, stretching, ripping, pulling it with him. A great hand seemed to yank him straight up, his revealing belly surging skyward, its vertical reach exploding out with fantastic ridges and cords, muscles growing into landscapes as his sleeves tore and tugged and exploded.

More and more spells battered his body as it instantly roared up from 3 feet to over 300. His clawed turtle feet swelled like wildfire in fast-forward, shoving into the clone masses, scattering them dominantly as his calves blew out in heft, his thighs exploding up bigger, then his midsection and inflating lats, his pectorals billowing angrily out before him! He grit his growing teeth as his neck doubled its circumference, then doubled that, his back muscles booming in time with his chest, his yellow biceps screaming and bulging as they *boom-boom-boomed* too big for his sleeves!

That same caught breath held deep as the selected clone billowed uncontrollably past 700 feet, then 1,200, blowing past the thousand-marker in less than two seconds; the growth only grew worse as his shoulders swelled out massively, rolling with hard, heavy bulk, power flowing off of the half-mile behemoth as he shook, panted just once, and burst past 2 miles, then 6! The mighty Kamek army held on doggedly, riding the increasing feet and swelling toes with cheers and spells, firing away nonstop, encouraging their ascending brother on and on, past 10 miles, then 30—by second five, the clone was already considerably bigger than the Prime Kamek, and his growth was rising even faster!

Down below, caught between the clone's monstrous growing legs, stood the stunned Iggy; the massive 3,000-foot Koopaling was agog, looking up for about five seconds, taking in the development, before he glanced intently back down to the paper-thin sheet of the army.

"Well!" Iggy huffed, grinning slyly. "They don't even acknowledge me...how perfect!"

With that, he reached up into his shock of hair, felt about, and with one hand pulled out several Super Mushrooms. To him, they were quite small, but to anyone else of normal size, each one would have outsized a building, and healthily.

"Who would have thought a shrunken-down emergency batch would lead to getting bigger than ever! Huahahah!"

Smugly, Iggy lowered his hand to the ground, scattering more of the uncaring Kamek army, who kept blasting up, up, and up at their comrade's surging feet; one stray spell was intercepted by Iggy's reach, and immediately the Super Mushrooms rumbled ominously, then boomed up bigger, starting to rapidly fill his massive palm. Then, another hit, and another, and the Mushrooms eagerly and noisily swelled, getting hug-sized, even to the titanic Koopa Kid...

From the escaped fleet of remaining airships, Mario, Yoshi and Larry watched on, too busy seeing the unforeseeable, in action. One the Kamek clones was billowing up so big that, by the time they had all rubbed their collective eyes and gawked, he was already blowing up past them, higher and higher in the distance. Between himself and Bowser, they were consuming more and more space, and were very nearly as big as the terrible Koopa Kingdom.

The clone shuddered, pumping onward in mass, spilling bigger, blasting up past Bowser's

middle, then up past his huge elbow, over 110 miles in size, and still growing at an alarming rate.

"DID THEY START, KAMEK!?" Bowser growled, shaking the entire kingdom with just his voice. "FOR YOUR SAKE, THEY BETTER HAVE! BECAUSE, EITHER WAY..."

An immense scaly hand descended, blotting out Kamek-Prime's view of the world. He must have detected the minimal little bump Kamek's body would have constituted, because that massive palm curled up after covering him, and the ensuing fist rose and rose and rose, all the way up to a maw that the Magikoopa had trouble even conceiving of.

"YOU'RE GOING TO THE BEST DUNGEON I HAVE, ON HAND!"

"OH, N...N-NO," Kamek groaned, hoping beyond all hope that his brethren had heard his command. Had he been a bit less covered, by city-spanning hands, he might have better detected the rising shadow spilling up over everything, over the ruined kingdom, over the cracked and smashed valleys and flattened mountains and toppled peaks and cloud banks and airships. Even Bowser was suddenly lost in a penumbra—and not one of the good ones.

"WAIT," Bowser muttered, the enlarged light bulb flickering at its usual functionality, despite the ludicrous size increase. "WAITAMINUTE, WHAT..."

He turned slowly, his shifting feet like doomsday on the crumbling turf. The barrage of spells far below must have finally ceased, because what loomed behind Bowser was no longer growing. It didn't really need to.

"GWAH!?"

The Koopa King jolted in place at the sight of another Kamek, blown up to a stunning 500 miles. Over two-and-a-half-million feet of pure, twitching, over-inflated turtle muscle towered over even him, his pectorals so blown out in scope that their smooth curves nearly bulged right over Bowser's head, crowning it mockingly.

"K-K-KAMEK BETA, BROTHER KAMEK!" the clone respectfully stammered, the delivery somehow as cute as it was awesome. "A-AWAITING ORDERS!"

"B...BETA?" Bowser gasped, blinking. He looked down to his opened palm, already blazing-mad. "WHAT DID YOU TRY, YOU LITTLE RUNT!? YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THI—"

Before Bowser could swallow him up, Kamek practically screeched:

*"ATTTTAAAAACK! INCAPACITATE LORD BOWSER!"*

Once again, in the face of such godly power and size, Bowser went pale. Kamek-Beta smiled wide, threw both unthinkably bulging, over-muscled arms wide, and grabbed the terrible tyrant by both arms. It wasn't until the fingers dug into even Bowser's overpowered muscles like they were clay that the Koopa King finally gulped. It wasn't to swallow Kamek. He hadn't gotten the chance.

"L-LORD BOWSER," the titanic clone said, also quite respectfully. "IT-IT'S A PLEASURE TO FINALLY SUBDUE YOU, MY LORD!"

*His Lord* wasn't paying much attention to the gesture, as he was too preoccupied with being lifted up off of his enormous feet, the clone's overwhelmingly huge muscles utterly dwarfing his own.

Roy Koopa remained limp, lying prostrate among the shattered mountain ranges of the kingdom's outer regions. There wasn't much kingdom left, but Roy had found his own cozy plot as he slumbered on, the 9-mile colossus out cold.

"What else can we do, here?" Larry Koopa sighed, wracking his brain, as Mario and Yoshi exchanged weary glances. Even from so high up in the skies, their best airship view was now only up to about the shins of both monumental super-giants. "We're totally outclassed! I never thought a Koopa would undo the great Koopa Kingdom...well, not like *this*..."

He thought a little more, biting his lip, before whipping back around to Mario.

"Okay, we have no resources left here, they're outgrowing the entire region," he went on, rubbing his blue hair unhappily. "What's in the Mushroom Kingdom, that we can use? Anything at all?"

No matter how Bowser struggled (and he certainly was trying), the massive Kamek clone's grip was iron atop iron, overkill. His envy nearly did him in first.

"WEHEHEHEH, W-WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?" Kamek-Beta asked, sincerely. Being so very much smaller than either of them, Kamek resolved to stand upon Bowser's vast snout, still having to look far up ahead to see his precious clone.

"SIMPLE," Kamek-Prime replied, dusting his tattered robe's stretched-out remains as they clung to his muscle. "I'LL TELL YOU IN A MOMENT, EHEEHHEE!"

With a wave of his hand, his relative-sized wand poofed forth, and he took it with both hands. He waved said wand in a big, theatrical circle, and poofed away, leaving Bowser cross-eyed at the clearing little speck of dispersing cloud.

"H-HEY," Bowser said, suddenly nervous. "HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING!?"

Kamek poofed in the middle of the entire army, all smiles, his dignity rebuilt.

"MY BROTHERS," Kamek spoke, pointing to himself with his own wand. "NO MORE MISTAKES, AND NO MORE HALF-MEASURES! NO MORE PETTY GLOATING, AND PLAYING AROUND! THIS TIME...THIS TIME, NO ONE WILL BE BIGGER...THAN ME!!!"

The army cheered like it was electrified, as the masses of Kamek clones poofed to double their numbers, then double that, spreading like a fungus of blue robes and yellow scales, smothering the remains of the sundered kingdom as they became 72,000 strong, then 144,000.

An ocean of Kameks still only constituted less than a puddle to the super-clone, as well as to the still-struggling Bowser, who redoubled his efforts. In that ocean was Iggy, the comparatively-tiny

Koopaling still monstrously huge by any other sane metric. The surging tides of clones swelled along around his big feet as he watched, otherwise busy keeping his bulky arms around three Super Mushrooms that were so big, they each were a veritable house, to *him*. He held them so, but didn't activate them, not yet.

"Oho," Iggy said, laughing so hard he hissed it out. "Perfect, perfect! Let's just see what we can do about this situation!"

Any idiot could see where this all was about to go: right to Kamek. Rather than interfere pointlessly, Iggy just watched, as over half a million Kameks all took aim with their boosted, maximum-power spells. Kamek threw his massive yellow arms up, and every aiming wand fired away. Iggy took to shoving at the towering Super Mushrooms, edging them closer to the far rim of the army, letting the few stray spells impact them. Even at his size, Iggy began to feel them swelling so massively that they shoved even his bulky girth back, and back, and back.

"So much power," Iggy giggled, rubbing happy circles on the Super Mushrooms' smooth curves as they swelled larger and larger, still. He was already calculating the proper beats; if they got any bigger, he would lose his grip on them all...he would have to take one to boost himself big enough to handle the others, and increase them even larger as they sponged up power...

So many spells volleyed forth through the air that, to Kamek, they formed a wall, a spreading dome of sparkling growth spells, netted together by proximity, mingling as they streaked, getting bigger and stronger as they all joined in mad harmony. When it impacted, the 30,000-foot tall Kamek didn't just grow. Not this time. This time, the reaction was *apocalyptic*.

"L-LEMME GO!" Bowser ordered, as pleadingly as he could, without pleading outright. "I O-ORDER YOU! RIGHT N-NOW! COME ON!!!"

"IT'S STARTING," the Beta Kamek chirped, full of dark glee. "IT'S S-STARTING!! WEHEHEHEHE!! WE'LL B-BE IN CHARGE, FOREVERMORE! US! IT'S WHAT HE DESERVES! WHAT WE DESERVE!! AND NON OF THIS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN SO OUT OF CONTROL, HAD YOU SIMPLY CEDED TO US, AND NOT PUSHED BACK! HOW IRONIC!"

"Y-YOU IDIOTS! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BIG KAMEK IS ABOUT TO GET!"

The sounds of unceasing spells hammering away caught up to Bowser, and his heart sank down past his stomach. The rumbling that followed was of such panic-inducing ferocity that even the mighty Koopa King started to huff anxiously. He looked up to the super-clone, but found that to be a bad mistake. The clone was utterly ecstatic.

"ON THE CONTRARY, MY LORD," the clone growled happily, as the rumbling grew even worse below, shaking even the two of them more and more and more. "I KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW BIG HE WILL GET! EHEEHEEHEE!!!"

A terrible, nearly demonic groan replied, filling the air. Bowser felt the rumbling deepen into a vision-blurring quake of force as something nearby swelled like a great balloon, and before he could so much as blink, the tyrant saw Kamek's head rising up, up past him, surging bigger. It sailed right by,

almost dismissively outpacing him, the growing Magikoopa's head and widening neck pushing right up past the Beta clone, who whooped and cheered in joy. Even as Kamek-Prime's humongous shoulder bumped both him and Bowser, heaving broader and taller against them, the clone remained fanatically devoted to the cause.

"GROW," the clone gasped, his huge glasses fogging as he huffed happily. "GROW!!"

Bowser's wails were just as easily shoved back by Kamek's raging growth as his body. His muzzle was rammed back, more and more shoulder cramming up past it, followed by the bump-bump of his huge yellow triceps as the sorcerer's arm swelled higher and higher up over him. The clone practically nuzzled into it, with Bowser in between, as the true Kamek exploded to unparalleled, dizzying sizes.

Even blowing up past 700 miles, Kamek kept growing. More and more spells peppered his surging, towering toe claws, the tips alone so enormous that the undersides still managed to curve up higher and higher over the army.

Iggy, seeing the endgame coming, finally activated the first Super Mushroom. The 18,000-foot object vanished, and in its place, Iggy boomed into view, lurching and shuddering fast, blowing up and up; his magically-swollen physique outgrew the rest of him, detonating to hulking scope as he laughed madly; his gambit paid off, as the severely amplified power up sent him rocketing up from 3,000 feet to 30,000, then 80,000, his size fervently exploding, the other two Super Mushrooms quickly becoming normal-sized again, relative to himself...

Even at 800 miles, Kamek grew bigger. His biceps stretched in agonized bliss, an ongoing gasp of delight his only form of expression as his mind reeled with power. He was a thimble holding a waterfall, and *winning*. In fact, he hardly cared if that waterfall consumed him. All that mattered was *more*.

"Y...YYYYEEEEEEEESSSSSSSS..."

Iggy shook and panted violently, smiling a crazed smile as he felt his bulk blowing up in between Kamek's massive feet, his shell swelling out, the spikes lengthening meanly, his neck and traps bloated warmly, as his sides ballooned under his bursting triceps, all at once, a rush upon a rush...

Even at 900 miles, Kamek's body kept climbing, his height pushing up and up into the reaches of space around their world. His chest expanded out feverishly, dual mounds stretching out past his own reach; it hardly deterred him from feeling them, however, as he performed avid research on himself, observing, shaking, and grinning darkly as he only blew up *bigger*.

"We...we need to go," Larry moaned, motioning for his crew to steer farther away, even if it meant exiting the kingdom itself. Between the set of feet shared by the clone and Kamek, even the Koopa Kingdom was becoming an increasingly inadequate platform on which to balance, as the monstrous Beta snuggled his support into Kamek's swollen, inflating hips. "We can't stay here!"

"W-where should we plot our course, sir?" a frantic Koopa Troopa asked. already at the wheel of the ship, partly just to keep himself upright.

"Higher ground," Larry answered, turning away from the sky-filling view before them. "We need to get as high up as we can, to buy some time! Plot a course for Nimbus Land! Now! Mario, I don't care how you do it...but get all the help in the Mushroom Kingdom that you can!"

Kamek's clone was less than half the size of his leader, and rapidly dwindling down lower and lower, as the spell battery went on and on. Millions of spells at maximum potency soaked into his ever-growing body, which began to loom high enough that other kingdoms and realms beyond could see a tremendous mass billowing bigger and bigger, taking up more and more space on the Mushroom World itself. Where Bowser was a state...Kamek was becoming and full-blown country, at over 1,200 miles in size! Over six million feet of god-bulk raged out in all directions, Kamek's body so overflowing with energy that his pectorals ballooned up insistently into his chin, cradling his jawline, making him blush, despite himself. Entire city streets could have occupied the crevices between his scales as they strained wider and wider over even more muscle, his thick abs guiding down, down, down to his adoring clone, who could only manage to hug into a thick upper thigh as Kamek grunted and blew up to 1,600 miles!

"NO M-MORE...REVERSALS..." Kamek thundered, shaking the entire hemisphere ominously. "NO MORE CHALLENGING...MY...RUUUUUULE!"

Nearly nine million staggering feet of muscle and power loomed over the curvature of the globe, and even Kamek proved unable to resist the urge to flex a monstrous arm. Its yellow bicep surged impossibly huge, stretching his skin tight, before booming up bigger, still, growing with the rest of him as Kamek exploded up 2,000 miles!

The airship in flight (both kinds) was so small, so utterly minuscule that, compared to even Bowser, it hardly existed at all. Compared to Kamek, they were virtually microscopic. The only piddling positive to the situation was, it was very easy to go undetected. And *go* they did, as the retreat went from partial to full, to completely panicked. Larry's airship full-bore sped into the correct warp pipe, just before Kamek's massive, horizon-sized heel grew into it, instantly crushing it against its landscape-smothering mass.

With only slivers of landmass remaining, the million-strong Kamek army took to climbing and scaling their vast leader, stopping their spells just long enough to get up off of the terrain as it crumbled and cracked and tumbled in defeat into the ocean. Among the hordes hugging into Kamek-Prime's immensity was Iggy; the one Super Mushroom he had experimented with had swollen him up a stunning hundred times in size—a rousing success! Yet, the 300,000-foot Koopalings' 56-mile height remained laughable, compared to Kamek's, and he knew it well. Given that he was hugging tight to just one of Kamek's scales with one hand (the other gripping the two remaining mushrooms), such comparisons were inevitable.

"MORE TO LOOK FORWARD TO," Iggy rumbled, wide-eyed. The math presented itself to a captive audience, as Iggy began to figure the rest out fast:

*Another mushroom as it currently was would likely yield the same results...he would easily grow up to a near-planetary size...and with another mushroom...*

A giddy shiver overtook his formidable bulk as he played with the idea a little more, riding Kamek's ongoing growth with the other uninterested clones all around him. *Specks to him, who was himself still a speck to Kamek! How fun!*

Yet, a greater thing persisted, dominating the course of his plotting: Greed.

*Better to wait. Load these Super Mushrooms even further! Get a bigger return! It won't be enough to try and outclass Kamek by a narrow margin, especially if he keeps on growing...if you give him that margin, this could all still fall apart. No...wait for the right time! Wehehehe!*

As he had already noticed, the million clones were busy with scaling their great leader, meaning the the spells had taken a pause. As such, he had only to wait for them to get into a solid position again, and start firing away once more! At his size, Kamek wouldn't even notice his interference until it was much too late! It was perfect! Soon, even Kamek would bow down to—

"GIMME!"

A familiar voice sliced through his reverie, making Iggy turn in confusion, just as something big climbed up his shell, gripping up spike by spike.

"ROY!?"

At 50,000 feet, Roy was still big enough to force his bulky way up over Iggy's gargantuan shoulder, reaching down for...*the mushrooms!*

"HAND 'EM OVER, YOUSE! C'MON, IGGY! I SAW 'EM SECOND!"

Roy's ambitions seemed impervious to the reality that 56 miles trumped 9 pretty easily. Iggy sneered and swatted a bodybuilder's arm up, flinging Roy off with little real effort. Still, Roy caught the back spikes as he fell, held fast, and righted himself once again, climbing right back up.

"THESE AREN'T YOURS, ROY," Iggy sighed, more put-off than threatened. "YOU COULDN'T EVEN TAKE THE THRONE, DON'T ACT TOUGH NOW!"

"YOU'RE WASTIN' DESE, IGGY! HAND ME 'EM, I SHOW YAS HOW IT'S DONE!"

"WHAT, *LOSING?*"

The two brothers squabbled on, but in the end, it was a hard, thick headlock that put Roy in place proper. Where words failed, brute force did not. Sibling-hood was a good teacher.

As the torrent of growth spells wore down, the effects did not, not even remotely. Kamek stood 2,200 miles tall, over eleven million feet high, with feet easily over one million feet long. He could have stepped on Bowser. His heels could have been at the beginning of one kingdom, and stretched to its opposing border. His scales outclassed lakes. And he was still...*still...growing!*

**"MORE,"** the immense reptile huffed, his thighs twitching happily as they swelled outward.  
**"MOOOORE! EHEEHIE!! I WON'T BE CHALLENGED AGAIN! EVEN IF I HAVE TO SIT ATOP THE ENTIRE WORLD, TO MAKE MY POINT!"**

His own booming words echoed out and around, until they came back to him, a suggestion from seconds ago returning to its owner.

*Why not?*

That same thought process that had brought him to such stupendous power now conjured an image so immensely entertaining, so gratifying, that he simply had to make it so. Kamek looked that entire half of the planet over thoughtfully, before bringing up incredibly thick arm; one clawed fingertip met another, and with a simple snap his wand reappeared, scaled up to match his rising height. It even continued growing with him as he surged hotly past 2,400 miles, then 2,600.

**"NOW...TO MAKE THINGS MUCH MORE OFFICIAL! WHEHEHE! OBSERVE!"**

Kamek pointed the vast wand to the firmament, creeping with thin sheets of clouds. The tip blazed bright neon as another spell began, and with a quick chant, he sent the tip up toward space, and massive craggy slats shot forth, the rock and mineral of the very Mushroom World jutting up into vast spires, meeting, joining and melding, folds overlapping. The planet groaned uncomfortably as the allocated materials fed up and up into a chair of sorts, only one so unfathomably big that the mountains and clouds hardly even rose up to surpass its base. To those so far below on the planet's surface, perhaps, the whole thing was a disruptive mystery.

To Kamek, it was a *throne*.

Iggy easily kept Roy back, but at his lesser size, Roy didn't quite have to be stronger; he just had to be slipperier. The shades he wore obscured his intentions, the much bigger Iggy having a time trying to guess where his smaller brother was darting or weaving. On top of that, Iggy's far bigger musculature actually impeded things, somewhat, as moving an arm as thick as his brother was wide proved slightly taxing. Roy wriggled his way under said arm as Iggy raised it to push him away, his smaller arms lashing out for one or both of the enlarged Super Mushrooms.

**"NO, I SAID!"** Iggy growled, moving them away with his other huge arm. **'QUIT INTERFERING! YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! YOU HAD AN EMBARRASSMENT OF THEM!'**

**"THIRD TIME'S DA CHARM!"** Roy panted, pushing in against Iggy's thick chest and stomach, trying to wedge himself in closer to the opposing arm.

It was only when the landscape they were on shifted, that both brothers finally halted, and looked up. Kamek was moving, and that much was easy for both parties to suss out, as the colossal calf to which Iggy clung flexed bigger, tensing and straining, as Kamek moved his 2,800-mile tall body in surreal slow motion, the rest of the titanic turtle fading into the haze of the atmosphere. Now, both of them pressed in tight to that moving muscle as Kamek turned his godly form around, settled his weight over the continent, then took a massive, planet-quaking seat on his impossible throne. The shockwaves rolled long and deep as he impacted, growing even bigger, filling his throne out even more.

**"BETTER,"** Kamek chuckled, as he looked out over the curve of the planet itself.

It...it was real. It had really happened. In less than one day, after a lifetime of bullying and abuse, he, Kamek, was in charge. Considerably. He was no longer merely 'big'. Nothing about him was 'mere', anymore! Nothing!

**"GREETINGS, WORLD,"** the all-powerful Magikoopa boomed, grinning crookedly to himself. **"THIS IS YOUR NEW LORD AND RULER, TALKING! WEHEHEHE!"**

The strain of its hard flight was clear the moment Larry's airship sputtered out of the warp pipe, stalling and dipping through the air. It struggled just to make it to a landing atop one of the lower cloud banks of Nimbus Land. The ship seemed to sag in ragged surrender on the cloud-scape underneath, the very land upon which the ship's crew began to disembark.

"We still don't have a lot of time," Larry sighed, hurriedly shoving an item box at Mario, just as hurriedly shooing him and Yoshi off of the deck. "You two, get down to the Mushroom Kingdom, and do what you do. Come back when you've got something! Go, go!"

Just as they abandoned ship onto the clouds, nearby the magically sprouted jungles and hills, they all turned to see how bad things had gotten. Larry nearly stumbled back onto his shell when he did.

"Yo-you've gotta be kidding!"

Even Mario and Yoshi shared the same sentiment, staring off of a literal cloud, and only being able to see something looming over their entire horizon. The confusion gave way to terror after a moment's sleuthing, and a lifetime of regret.

It was a toe. Specifically, a toe-claw. Just one. Just the absolute tip. That tip was bigger than the islands around it, far out over the sea, beyond the Mushroom Kingdom. It was Kamek's toe, and that made Kamek so utterly vast that, even up in their heavenly perch, they were less than the height of a carpet fiber, to him. The discouragement was so heavy that it was a wonder they didn't all sink right through the bottom of Nimbus Land, on the spot. Then, it got bad.

The sound waves that rolled out crushed all thought, sending the planet's wide surface into a aural assault, decibels bigger than cities booming out loud. The sound was too big to even fully hear, it registered more as a vibration-attack, the words they formed more *felt* than heard:

**"GREETINGS, WORLD! THIS IS  
YOUR NEW LORD AND RULER,  
TALKING! WEHEHEHE!"**

Two million Kameks all cheered in unison, overjoyed. From between boundlessly big scales, they all leapt and called out and waved their wands in victory, each one so much smaller than Kamek-Prime that they just conceded to the idea of being a tiny part of a greater whole. Much, much greater.

**"FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, ALL KINGDOMS, ALL PEOPLES OF THIS PLANET ARE NOW UNDER MY RULE!"** Kamek crowed, his monstrous chest swelling even larger, his bulk still creeping bigger and stronger against his creaking throne. **"I ANTICIPATE NO BACKTALK ON THE MATTER, WEHEHE! IF ANYONE EVEN ATTEMPTS TO USURP ME, I...I PROMISE, I WILL PUNISH YOU ALL! SHOULD ANYONE OPPOSE ME, THEY WILL ONLY GUARANTEE ONE THING: I'LL BECOME EVEN BIGGER! IF YOU UNDERSTAND, DOWN THERE, THEN SET OFF FIREWORKS! LET'S SEE IT!"**

Perhaps it was no real surprise, the lack of debate or process that followed. A 3,000-mile being with a body that shamed the strongest of creatures demanding something, anything, did tend to get what it wanted. After all that Kamek had put up with in life, it seemed plenty fair to him.

Sure enough, it was only about a minute before the first little blast of fireworks went off, in Nimbus Land, of all places. Another followed suit, down in Bean Valley, near to it. Chocolate Island followed after that, then Pedalburg, then from Tall Tall Mountain, one after another, after another.

Kamek had to look with more focus than usual, as he kept swelling larger, making the view harder and harder to discern easily. After a moment's effort, however, he smiled wide.

**"THAT'S RIGHT...EHEEHEE, GOOD, GOOD!"**

Kamek did a short little wave of his wand, and the Beta-clone poofed onto his vast lap, as big as a small dog compared to him. Bowser remained trapped in his grip, pitifully tired and panting from strain. The clone looked up, in awe.

"Y-YES, BROTHER KAMEK?"

**"EXCELLENT WORK, DOWN THERE,"** Kamek said, grinning. **"I WANT YOU TO RELEASE BOWSER TO ME. THEN, YOU ARE TO TAKE A PORTION OF THE ARMY, AND BEGIN PATROLLING THE PLANET! NO ONE WILL GET AWAY WITH TRYING ANYTHING AGAINST ME!"**

"WEHEHEHEE, ABSOLUTELY, BROTHER, IT SHALL BE SO..."

Easily, the Beta clone released Bowser, and the exhausted tyrant thumped down hard onto Kamek's lap. The once mighty Koopa King wobbled, looking up and up and up, not even able to fully take Kamek's sheer size in. Bowser opened his maw to make some rebuke or nasty comment, but his passing out from exertion finally got in the way. That was one way to get him to shut up.

**"ONE FINAL THING,"** Kamek-Prime mused, grinning. **"I'M GOING TO MAKE ONE IMPORTANT LITTLE UPGRADE TO YOU, AND YOU ALONE! WEHEHEHEHE!"**

With one last chant, a soft glow covered the Beta-Kamek, who nodded approvingly, then disappeared in a cloud of dissipating violet smoke, tens of thousands of tiny clones vanishing from around Kamek's humongous legs right after that.

**"I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO RULE A WORLD, FOR REAL,"** Kamek muttered, contemptuously glaring down over his swollen chest bulk at his former Master.

In any other circumstance, Larry would have been delighted to see those bursts of fireworks near and far, submissions to the great Koopa clan; watching it unfold from the wrong side ultimately proved far less endearing, as the Koopaling saw one territory after another capitulate to the looming Magikoopa deity so high above. The oddity of a child of a family of conquerors being conquered was matched only by the sting of seeing it done so much better. Perhaps, surpassed.

"I wish this hadn't happened," Larry sighed, sitting there glumly, despite being literally in the clouds. "How could Kamek possibly be that powerful? Did he overextend his magic? He must have had limits before...was our family seriously sitting on this much power, the whole time, and wasting it?"

A tired but determined *wahoo* answered, nearby, and Larry turned to see Mario astride Yoshi, returning from his excursion—and not empty handed.

"Good, you're back," the Koopaling muttered quickly, dusting some cloud off as he stood. "What'd you find?"

Mario raised an item in his hand, and suddenly, Larry lit up.

"No way...the Mushroom Kingdom had *this*, on hand!?"

The item in question was none other than the Star Rod! The pride and joy of Star Haven and its Spirits! It offered the one thing that could counter how insanely powerful Kamek was growing, unchecked: *a wish*.

"Okay, let's use this thing, pronto," Larry laughed, grinning slyly. He reached for the wand out of habit, only to have Mario pull back cautiously. "What? Give me it, Mario! Hurry up!"

Larry advanced, insistent. Yoshi stepped back further, not even needing to be told by Mario.

"What's the holdup!? We're working together for now, much as it pains me, so give! All I need to do is wish to go back before all this happened! Dad overstepped, sure, he does that—"

Mario explained, calmly. Astonishingly, Larry listened. Perhaps the threat of total subjugation was enough of an incentive to do so.

"Well, yeah," Larry grumbled, "he could just blow himself up jumbo-ultra again...if he wanted...so, now that we know Kamek's really that strong, we can't set him off again. We'd have to keep him on our side, butter him up. Or, steal his wand? I mean, he needs it, right? I never asked..."

*Wahoo*

"Okay, alright! I get it! Hand it over, so I can make the wish, then, let's move!"

Mario still hesitated. He surely saw how trustworthy the Koopas were, even in dire straights. This was further justified when a Goomba leapt up from behind Yoshi, headbutting the Star Rod right out of Mario's hand. It flew high, arced, then landed right in Larry's turtle paw.

"Ehehehehe! Okay, better!" the Koopa Kid said, triumphantly. "Sorry, plumber, but we don't have time to argue semantics or strategy. You understand."

With that, Larry turned back, held the Star Rod high overhead, and before Mario could stop him, made a wish:

"I wish...*that I was a million times—*"

A terrible tumult interrupted, one so big that its tremors reached Nimbus Land, throwing Larry, his minions, the downed ship, Mario, Yoshi, and the forests and kingdom beyond into a thunderous rattle. The great commotion bled into a singular, deafening *BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM...*

Something dark tan and a lighter beige shot up so big, so fast, that they met in the middle of the atmosphere, smothering out the sliver of Kamek they could still make out over the planet's curve. Both pressed in at a point, creating a kind of wall of two halves, and both halves were still getting bigger!

"Wh-what the—"

Again, Larry proved unable to finish, as the world-quake shook even harder. The Star Rod skidded from his clawed hand as he stumbled over his shell, crying out, sending Mario and Yoshi into a wild scramble to collect it first. As Larry and his minions all dogpiled around them, the growing masses continued to bulge higher and wider, consuming more and more of the hemisphere...

Kamek Adjusted his massive, country-sized glasses, swelling out with pride as the innumerable growth spells' effects continued to work through his body, shuddering up to 3,400 miles, then 3,500. It was just going on and on, though slower than it had been during the actual barrage, and for the first time ever, the deified Magikoopa felt...right. Complete.

Perhaps he would seal Bowser away in his wand, so the fool-tyrant could see his failure up close, for all of time! Eheehhe! Maybe he would take Bowser's size away, and make him the smallest minion in his army! How deviously clever and cruel!

**"THERE'S TIME TO FIGURE IT OUT, NOW, WEHEH,"** Kamek hummed, beyond pleased with himself. **"WITH NO CONCEIVABLE THREATS REMAINING, I CAN TAKE—"**

A boom of sorts made itself known, and by the time Kamek could cock one brow up beyond his glasses, a thick wall of muscle and swollen-out scale plating exploded forth, buffeting at top-speed into him, pushing so big and so hard that it drove his great mass back into his throne, cracking it. His muffled cries fell silent against the tonal chaos of so much growing stretching bulk inflating up against him, then over him!

***"KHMMMFP!?"***

**"YOU IDIOT, ROY! THAT WAS MY MUSHROOM!"** a cataclysmal voice blared, so big that it shook the entire planet this time, rattling every kingdom on it. It even shook Kamek. **"THAT WASN'T FOR SHARING! NOW I CAN'T TELL WHERE THE OTHER ONE WENT!"**

**"SHADDUP!"** another voice maliciously snapped. That the voice was easier to even understand meant it was a good deal smaller...which only made it mind-bendingly huge.

A 5-million-foot Roy Koopa loomed to a stand atop the planet, nearly 950 miles tall; looming up angrily over even him, however, was Iggy—and Iggy was *ENORMOUS*.

**"GRAH, THINK HOW MUCH LARGER I COULD HAVE GOTTEN THOSE LAST TWO, IF YOU HADN'T INTERFERED! I'M ONLY SO MUCH BIGGER THAN KAMEK, NOW! HE CAN STILL FIGHT BACK, IF WE STAY SLOPPY! UNDERSTAND!?"**

**"YEAH, YEAH,"** Roy grumbled, already slamming his vast knees and massive open hands down over the landscape and oceans, searching for the last Super Mushroom. Iggy was on him in an instant, hoisting his smaller mega-brother up brusquely.

**"OH NO, NO, YOU AREN'T GETTING THAT LAST ONE!"**

A poof of smoke as big as the moon cut them both off, and Iggy tumbled in sideways against a giant throne of rock and metals; he shook his huge head and looked it over, confused. It had no occupant, now...had he been growing up against something, or someone?

**"WHAT IS THIS?"** Iggy pondered, his usual curiosity piqued, when another great blast of purple smoke overtook them.

**"IT...IS THE THRONE... OF THIS PLANET'S RIGHTFUL RULER!"**

The smoke cleared to reveal Kamek, in all his glory, radiating power and size. His constitution had expanded to such a size that, even though Iggy towered over him at 5,680 miles, Kamek's physique was actually more impressive. And considering Iggy's pectorals nearly blocked his own view atop a titanic neck, that was saying something. The entire planet struggled to hold Iggy and Kamek together, their combined mass nearly equal to it, putting them both into a balancing act. Kamek managed to barely stand, while Iggy simply hugged the entire side of the Mushroom World, belly plates as wide as entire countries pressing warm and tight into the nations and oceans and islands below.

Iggy, wasting no time in accessing the trouble, said only one thing:

**"REALLY."**

**"EHEEHEEHEE, YES! YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE NEW GO-ACK!"**

The simplest route had worked; he had gotten Kamek to open his mouth. Iggy's gigantic fist lashed out, a massive clawed finger stuffing into Kamek's opened, bragging maw, filling it. The claw was of stuff sturdy enough that the enraged Magikoopa's reflexive biting didn't hurt one bit.

**"AH-AH, NO MORE SPELLS OUT OF YOU!"** Iggy hummed, turning his vast head to Roy,

who was, of course, back to trying to find that last Super Mushroom. Even blown up as big as it was, against their newfound scale, it was like trying to find a microbe in a haystack. **"HEY, ROY!"**

**"WHAT? I'M BUSY, HERE!"**

**"WHILE DAD TRIED TO PLANT YOU INTO THAT MOUNTAIN RANGE, KAMEK WENT AND BLEW ONE OF THE CLONES UP TO SUPER-SIZE...YOU'RE BIGGER THAN HIM NOW, SO GO TAKE HIM OUT! WE DON'T NEED LOOSE ENDS!"**

**"YEAH, WHATEVER, ALRIGHT,"** Roy boomed, gruffly. **"IT AIN'T LIKE 'DAT MUSHROOM IS AROUND HERE, NO MORE, ANYHOW..."**

Being nearly a thousand miles tall, it wasn't like the search would take him so long; Iggy understood that much just fine. All the while, Kamek thumped against Iggy's fantastic mass, fists and wand slamming into his huge forearm and bicep, to only modest effect.

**"KRRRRMPH!"**

**"CUT THAT OUT, KAMEK,"** Iggy sighed, his vast chest swelling from the merest effort. **"YOU DID EXCELLENTLY, FOR THE RECORD...BUT IN THE END, IT LOOKS LIKE MY SCIENCE HAS OUT-THOUGHT YOUR MAGIC! HUEHEHEHE!"**

Just beyond the curve of the Mushroom World, the Beta-clone watched. He silently held out a massive hand, and his equally-big wand poofed into it. He softly started the same growth spell chant, aiming the tip at his mighty leader, just as the chant finished and the wand's tip glowed its brightest, the spell about to fire off, a bigger set of arms snatched him up off of the ocean, lifting him with a startled cry; his wand tilted up at the last moment, the spell blasting off into space.

**"BWAHAHAHA! YEAH, THOUGHT YOU WAS CLEVER, EH?"** Roy growled, putting the mighty Beta-clone into the biggest Half-Nelson ever. His bigger bulk pressed all that yellow muscle and torn robe down, grinding him into the ocean with no trouble. **"LOOKS LIKE DERE'S NO SUPPORT, DIS TIME! YER GONNA...HUH? WUH-OH..."**

Kamek's struggles eventually decreased to a kind of angry standstill, the Magikoopa instead trying to jerk his head back, before stopping that, as well, then finally sighing and stopping altogether. Iggy let him go through the motions.

**"THAT'S BETTER,"** the Koopaling said, at length. Kamek had continued growing, throughout, but not enough to close the gap between them, meaning Iggy was still certainly in charge. **"NOW, BELIEVE IT OR NOT...I WANT TO BREAK A DEAL WITH YOU. HEAR ME OUT!"**

Behind his vast glasses, Kamek's brows went from glaring to cocked high.

**"YOU BE MY UNDERLING, AND WE BOTH RULE. JUST...YOU, LESS-SO. I CAN SEE WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF, UNLIKE BOWSER. SO, WORK WITH ME. THIS IS TOO THRILLING AN IDEA TO PASS UP! IMAGINE...WEHEHE, YOUR MAGIC, COMBINING WITH MY BRILLIANT EXPERIMENTS! THINK OF IT!"**

*...Underling*

Truth be told, the idea was interesting. Kamek didn't entirely mistrust Iggy, he was too crazy to be a full-blown liar.

*Underling*

The word kept echoing, and the more it did, the less reasonable he wanted to be. The more he thought of it, of working under anyone, ever again, after all his power and his efforts...

*UNDERLING*

Just as Kamek's brows sank back down into a glare, his entire body jolted upright, almost like a full-blown hiccup had passed through him. He blinked, trying to look himself over, even with Iggy's finger stuck in his mouth. Iggy also cocked his head, squinting.

**"WHAT?"** he ventured, narrowing his eyes. In response, Kamek began to shake with a frantic violence, all over, up and down. He looked up, suddenly, over Kamek's pointy hat, to see Roy in the distance, pinning the smaller super-clone to the planet's surface. With his huge free arm, he was waving feverishly, in a clear panic. He pointed to Kamek, and just as Iggy looked down again, Kamek's muscles were suddenly doubling out grossly in mass, shaking and groaning, about to explode. Roy mouthed out the last word anyone wanted to hear, or to read: *mushroom*.

Two and two married, and had four. Iggy gulped.

**"OH, N—"**

Kamek bellowed, and bellowed hard. Even with Iggy's claw in his mouth, it could be heard, as Kamek's overloaded physique trembled all over. His pectorals, neck, traps and shoulders all had blown out so large that his head was adrift among them, his biceps billowing tight on either side. With a harsh gulp and a deepening tremor, Kamek's muscles doubled, again, pushing do far out that they collided hotly with Iggy, and before the startled reptile could pull back successfully, it happened.

Way over in Nimbus Land, the full-blown battle for the Star Rod stopped, as Kamek's back muscles surged furiously larger, bulging out around his shaking shell, detonating even bigger, then bigger, and bigger, bursting right toward them as Kamek's body went nuclear, and blew up so big, so fast, so aggressively, that there was no time to process it. He was roughly 4,000 miles tall a split second ago, and in that next fraction of a moment, there was only a sheer wall of yellow, blasting through everything, slamming Nimbus Land, obliterating everything there and crushing what was down below.

Kamek roared pure thunder as his bulk erupted so large that the planet was suddenly only the size of one pectoral, putting the hulking Kamek at over 50,000 miles in size, which trembled deep and blasted up to 110,000 miles—no, no, 180,000! The planet itself, including Iggy, Roy and the clone, were all summarily shoved farther and father back through space, as Kamek's chest outsized it handsomely, shook, and swelled again! The pandemonium only grew with him as those fighting on Nimbus Land were practically welded to Kamek's surging hide and stretching scales by the velocity-force of his growth as the exploded up to 230,000 miles!

His neck bulged out into a vast ocean of its own, his head in the center, his pectorals blowing further in mass, stretching his swollen skin in wave upon wave of burning bliss. The entire time he continually bellowed and boomed, writhing against his own power as his thighs tripled in mass, blasting bigger against each other, as his biceps and triceps quadrupled in scope, his muscles competing hungrily as the planet shrank to a tiny ball, then a marble!

The neighboring planets in the galaxy all watched in utter shock as Kamek continued to blast bigger, throwing out cosmic waves of heat and pressure as he pulsed past 300,000 miles, his tattered robe's remains stretching painfully, digging into vast plains of smooth yellow girth as they blew up against them, demanding freedom! His godly body trembled and heaved one last, jaw-dropping time, swelling with a final, percussive *BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOM*, to over 350,000 miles!

Even Kamek had to stop and drift there, in space, openly panting, huffing and shaking from the wracking his body had just taken. The transformation complete, the last Super Mushroom having blown him up to nearly two billion feet high, he took a last breath, held it, and released a vast cloud of violet smoke and sparkling magic, before finally composing himself.

"HUUUH...HEH...HEHE..."

Kamek looked himself over, shoulders bigger than the mid-tier planets nearby, his pectorals so far out that he had trouble seeing where they began to slope into curves. He flexed, tight, and the planets all sailed back, nudged off balance by it. He was so strong, that just flexing had blown them all back a few relative degrees.

"EH...EHÉE...EHÉEEHÉEHEEHÉEHEEEEEEEEEEE!"

The marble-sized Mushroom World floated by, so tiny, so powerless, and the moment he saw it, Kamek erupted in mad, cackling laughter. Doing just that made his bulk swell even thicker, as everything flexed against his poor robe's remains. Every planet in the galaxy shook, and the winner of the day's escalating madness seemed horribly, horribly clear.

Without saying a thing, Kamek brought a cosmic-sized hand up, his golden bicep swelling happily, and his wand poofed into king-sized view, right underneath the poor planet. The wand itself had scaled to such a staggering size that its tip came up underneath the Mushroom World, and cupped it right up, a pink magic rim solidifying underneath it, forming into a huge cushion, upon which it sat.

A jewel. That was what it was. A crown jewel, atop a god's scepter.

"**MINE,**" Kamek boomed, grinning smugly. His muzzle alone was too vast for anyone left there on the planet to make out properly. It was just a wall of golden-yellow with two cavernous nostril slits. "**YOU'RE ALL...MINE! EHEEHEEHEEHEEHEEEEEE!!**"

The other pertinent parties having been collected onto Kamek's infinite scales, that left only Roy, the Beta-clone and Iggy, topside. The three colossi gawked up into space itself, which by their take was all Kamek. The clone laughed, cheering wildly, even as the vast Roy weighed him down.

**"W-WHAT DO WE DO?"** Roy asked Iggy, legitimate terror on his face. **"WASN'T DAT DE LAST MUSHROOM!?"**

Before he could answer proper, Iggy saw a bright rim of blue magic swelling up all around the vast cushion onto which the planet and themselves had been placed. His confusion melted into fear, as the blue rim started to gradually rise up and curve, forming a dome slowly around them, bit by magical bit. In less than a minute, the seal would be made.

**"WHADDA WE DO, IGGY? C'MON!"**

Iggy's Koopa brain fired away fast, as the dome continually slow-formed all around them, all around the Mushroom Planet, as Kamek watched on, smiling...