

## In Null Valley's Shadows: A Warrior's Tale

**Figure 1**

*The Warrior Peers into Null Valley*



*Null Valley*, By DALL-E, 2023, digital image, located on OpenAI's DALL-E

The scene pans to a warrior in Null Valley,

As he stands hopelessly in murky plains.

Surrounded by other undead warriors in a deep, dark cave

Many lost souls roamed without a conscience, devoid of their spirits.

His eyes peered through the gloomy atmosphere,

He found a single spark far away in the vast darkness.

He had memories of the countless battles he won and the single one he lost

As these thoughts roamed in his mind like a haunting ghost.

He recalls his final fight, which occurred on a day overcast with clouds  
Against a shadowy enemy with a darkness that consumed everything it touched.  
His powerful sword failed to connect and his shield was shattered and destroyed,

Under the strength of the night that attacked with no mercy.

The enemy, named Shadow, had a black obsidian sword

With an edge so sharp that it spared an opponent's body but wounded their soul.

Defeated, Shadow disappeared victoriously as the Warrior fainted with his spirit detaching from him.

As the Warrior was split into two: a weakened version of himself and a dark clone of himself.

His spirit was sealed in the border walls of the Surface -- the Warrior's home -- and Null Valley realms

As the weakened Warrior was rapidly teleported across the gate separating both worlds.

Only the Warrior's dark shell remained and was ready to wreak havoc on the Surface.

The warrior's mind returns to the present,

As he contemplates on how to navigate this dark and desolate realm.

In the Null Valley, time flowed slowly,

As eons passed until a light caught the eye of the Warrior,

There was a stone landmark illuminating under a starless sky.

A figure was shining with a soft, tranquil light and sat by the landmark in meditation.

The Warrior stopped for a short slumber.

Awakened, the figure's light illuminated the surrounding area and woke the Warrior up,

"I am Hope," it said. "I am your beacon and your guiding light."

Confused and groggy, the warrior's eyes soon beamed with curiosity,

Hope's words, which sounded like a puzzle, were concise and hard to understand.

## Figure 2

### *The Warrior Meets Hope*



*Warrior Encounters Hope*, By DALL-E, 2023, digital image, located on OpenAI's DALL-E

Hope reveals that it is made of both light and shadow, two opposites.

Hope transformed into the dark Shadow, triggering the warrior's fear.

But as the warrior was overcome with despair, Shadow reverted back into Hope,

As it reassured and lifted the warrior back on his feet, now interested in Hope.

**Figure 3**

*The Warrior's Intense Training Bears Fruit*



*Omen of Determination*, By DALL-E, 2023, digital image, located on OpenAI's DALL-E

Hope and the Warrior, mentally tormented by his last defeat, journeyed together

And Led the Warrior to its home and training grounds.

Hope transformed the Warrior's negative emotions into physical soldiers for sparring with the Warrior.

As Hope breathed in calmly for a few moments, the soldiers shrank in size and power,

Followed by Hope swiftly defeating all the soldiers.

Hope then restored the soldiers to their former state,

As Hope uttered some lessons, "Before fights, defeat your enemies and negative emotions in your mind."

"Stand strong, breathe in and out and observe your thoughts."

“Let your emotions flow, do not suppress them as this weakens you, and focus on your breath.”

“Mastering yourself and your mind is the first step to unlocking your potential as a fighter.”

“Once you obtain mental control, your physical body would have no choice but to obey your spirit.”

“When your mind and body are synchronized by an unbreakable spirit, your strength will multiply.”

“With your amplified strength, no opponent will be able to break you.”

Ignoring Hope’s encouraging words, the Warrior attempted to blindly copy Hope’s technique and failed,

As he was swiftly defeated by the soldiers, who grew in power as the Warrior’s fear increased.

Following his defeat, the Warrior listened to Hope as he was taught psychology alongside training.

The Warrior took every opportunity to practise his breathing and mindfulness to defeat his new opponents.

One day, the Warrior was struggling to overcome his immense rage and frustration at his defeats.

As he rushed to where the soldiers stood, waiting

for the Warrior.

The Warrior then tried

something that he never tried once: He let himself experience anger and meditated.

After some time passed, his anger descended from its peak, and anger was replaced with determination.

As a blue aura started enveloping the Warrior and exponentially multiplying his strength.

He then took deep breaths and let out a long sigh,

As the soldiers facing him, like with Hope, started losing their power.

The Warrior’s aura intensified until he transformed and his hair turned blue,

As he rushed at the soldiers with all his might, preparing a sword slash like he did all those years ago.

To the Warrior’s surprise, the attack connected,

As the soldiers glowed brightly until they exploded, consumed in the Warrior’s blue light.

The Warrior shielded himself from the impact, and tried to locate the soldiers once more.

Hope, who was watching from a distance, appeared by the Warrior and informed him that they vanished.

Hope’s lessons for the Warrior were unforgiving and tested the Warrior’s spirit and willpower,

Teaching the warrior how to reclaim his fighting spirit was Hope’s destiny to fulfill.

**Figure 4**

*The Warrior Transforms at Last!*



*The Warrior Finally Transforms and Overcomes His Emotions*, By DALL-E, 2023, digital image, located on OpenAI's DALL-E

After a long, fruitful period of training, Hope gave the now-trained Warrior a final test.

“Kill your dark shell, who is now the strongest warrior on the Surface realm.”

Hope teleported itself and the Warrior back to a familiar battlefield on the Surface

Where the Warrior met his demise not long ago in the Surface realm's time.

Shortly after, the Warrior's dark shell appeared a distance away from the Warrior, grinning in anticipation.

"I will reclaim my light and defeat you once and for all," the Warrior declared with might.

His shadowy shell laughed at the Warrior with underestimation and prepared to clash with the Warrior.

With newfound strength, the warrior prevailed and remembered his training.

The lessons he learned taught him resilience, the power of determination and controlling his thoughts.

His shadow was finally killed and the Warrior's spirit returned to him from the realms' borders.

Back on the Surface, the Warrior became a reborn hero with the valuable lessons he learned.

On the Surface realm, a light shines bright

The Warrior stands confidently as the one who conquered his night.

He reunites with Hope in Null Valley and asks about why they fought many years ago.

Hope, transformed into Shadow, said, "You lacked mental resilience. I wanted you to struggle and grow."

"You grew complacent and neglected to prepare yourself for later obstacles in life."

"Letting your once-measly power get to your head clouded your soul with laziness and arrogance."

The Warrior now understands why he undertook this journey: he failed to conquer himself in the past,

Which prompted Shadow to teach the Warrior humility and instill in him a fighter's unwavering spirit.

The Warrior thanks Hope for all its help and spent some time talking to the entity,

And promises to keep Hope's legacy alive through mentoring other souls.

As the Warrior starts heading back home to the Surface,

Hope warmly smiles to the Warrior, and reminds him to keep training and connecting with other souls.

Hope transforms back into Shadow,

As it prepares for its next fight with another deteriorating soul, similar to the Warrior long ago.

The fight seems vaguely familiar to onlookers, as it is a repeat of Shadow and Warrior's battle.

The cycle of despair and hope continues for eternity,

As the Warrior, true to his word with Hope, continues to help lost souls defeated by Shadow.



**Figure 5**

*The Warrior Triumphantly Defeats His Shadow!*



*Return of the Victorious Warrior.* By DALL-E, 2023, digital image, located on OpenAI's DALL-E