

Ninjago: Neon Warfare

Episode Four Part I: "Dichotomic Purpose"

By
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Based on
LEGO Ninjago

EXT. OUTSIDE POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

PIXAL and LLOYD are standing outside the police station in the rain. Pixal has her sword in front of Lloyd, which is preventing Lloyd from going after Zane.

PIXAL (V.O)
Nightmares.

LLOYD
Move your sword.

PIXAL
I will not. I am worried you-

LLOYD
Me? You should be more worried about what Zane is going to do.

Lloyd gestures to the ice that has spread across the entire street.

PIXAL (V.O)
They are dreams associated with negative emotions and events in our lives-

PIXAL
Zane won't hurt anyone.

LLOYD
How do you know that? You don't know what he did. You don't know what I saw.

PIXAL (V.O)
Whether they be external, or internal-

The Ninja walk out of the police station visibly troubled. Jorge is being carried by Cole as they are being escorted by police.

NYA
What happened out here?

LLOYD
Zane happened.

KAI
Where did he go?

PIXAL

He left. I am sure he is heading back to the monastery.

LLOYD

I am going to talk to the Mayor.

JAY

That uh...is not a good idea.

LLOYD

Why?

COLE

We all have been suspended from ninja duties and banned from the city. Including Samurai X.

Pixal and Lloyds faces drop.

PIXAL (V.O)

Showing us our greatest fears, our worst experiences and our worst selves.

LLOYD

What? He can't do that!!

PIXAL

Yes he can. Aristos is now the Mayor. It is best we comply.

LLOYD

But we can't just leave, we are *ninja-*

NYA

Not anymore, Lloyd.

Lloyd looks away, shaking his head. Jorge looks around and notices that store owners are closing their doors and people are turning away from them.

PIXAL

Staying here is now against the law.

JORGE

Heroes are supposed to help people.

LLOYD

We can't help people if we are banned from the city, Jorge.

JORGE
Yeah but, the people don't want us
here. If we stay, they won't see us as
the good guys...

Lloyd looks around at the people and takes a deep breath.

LLOYD
Alright, let's go home.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF MONASTERY - EVENING

The Ninja are seen walking to the steps of the monastery.
Only to find two men in suits standing at the bottom of the
steps.

COLE
Uhh...Can we help you two?

The men do not respond or acknowledge them. Jay waves his
hands in their faces.

JAY
Helloo?? You're in our way!

MAN 1
I am sorry but we cannot let you pass.

NYA
What? But we live here?

MAN 2
The monastery was given and paid for
by the city. However, you have been
relieved of your jobs, so the Spade
Administration has taken your home and
belongings.

PIXAL
My mech!

COLE
My games!

Pixel gives Cole a look...

COLE
Yeah, the mech...that's important too.

Nya marches up to the men, attempting to FORCE her way
through, but they get in front of her.

NYA
I don't know who you are but whatever
(MORE)

NYA (CONT'D)
this Spade Administration has no right
to take our home from us!

Nya looks ready to fight the men, but Lloyd pulls her back to
address them and prevent a fight.

LLOYD
Is Zane there?

MAN 1
The building has been thoroughly
inspected. There is no one inside.

PIXAL
Did he come by here?

The men shake their heads.

JAY
This is great...really it is amazing!
Not only do we need to find Zane.
Again! But we are jobless and
HOMELESS!

Nya puts her hand on Jay's shoulder, he then grabs hers.

JAY
Homeless! Jobless! Zaneless!

LLOYD
We need to find Zane.

COLE
Lloyd, can you chillax for a moment?
We just discovered we have no bed to
sleep in for the night.

LLOYD
He went on a mission when he shouldn't
have. He has refused repairs, and he
covered an entire street in ice...I am
afraid he will hurt someone.

KAI
Zane would never!

LLOYD
You all saw what he did today! Pix you
can't look me in the eye and deny what
he did.

Pixal shifts uncomfortably...

PIXAL

...Yes. From what I have seen, Zane seems to be-- Unstable.

LLOYD

See?

PIXAL

But he has been trying to be and none of you have helped him.

Everyone remains quiet, unsure how to respond...

PIXAL

There is no reason for us to be here now. Let's look for Zane.

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

ZANE is walking in the forest. Everything seems to be moving in slow motion. Ice CREEPS onto the forest floor as he walks. Ice creaks up the trees. Everything seems bright, saturated, and magical. Light violin music plays.

FOREST MONTAGE IN SLOW MO - VARIOUS

IN EXTREME SLOW MO...Extreme close-up shot of Zane's eyes. As he looks around the camera pans to the direction he is looking in...looking above at the trees with light shining through...down to his hands that are covered in ice...to the right where ice FOLLOWS him...The camera moves behind him. We see ice continue to move about as he walks in the background.

EXT. BIRCHWOOD - FLASHBACK

MATCH-CUT-TO...Birchwood forest. Snow takes the place of ice. We see YOUNGER ZANE in the background. He is walking. The camera moves from his feet to his face. Younger Zane also looks around, he appears confused and intrigued by everything around him...There is a man with a straw hat and a white robe standing at a distance from Younger Zane. He walks up to him.

YOUNGER ZANE

Excuse me.

The man in the hat turns around. revealing himself to be VEX.

YOUNGER ZANE

Do you know where home is?

VEX
(In Wu's voice) Home?

MATCH CUT: From Younger Zane back to current Zane.

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

We watch Zane continue to walk in the forest. Something is on his mind...

WU (V.O)
Home could be anything. A person.

IN SLOW MO...Zane turns to the right revealing a STATUE of Pixal being manifested in ice.

WU (V.O)
A place.

Zane turns to the left, a statue of the ice castle manifests.

WU (V.O)
A feeling.

CLOSE-UP SHOT...Zane's hand is shown. He closes it into a fist...

EXT. NEVER REALM - NIGHT

MATCH CUT of Zane's hand. It now holds the Staff of Forbidden Spinjitzu...MEDIUM SHOT of NEVERREALM ZANE gripping onto the staff. He looks scared and confused...WIDE SHOT of Neverrealm Zane walking up a large staircase. There is a man in front of him wearing a straw hat and brown robes.

NEVERREALM ZANE
I'm scared.

The man turns around. It is DR. JULIEN.

DR. JULIEN
(Vex's voice) Don't be. This is your new home. I just need your help, alright?

Zane looks frightened. Dr. Julien hugs him.

DR. JULIEN
(Vex's voice) Don't worry, I will take care of you.

EXT. FOREST - SUNSET

MATCH CUT to a statue of Dr. Julien hugging Neverrealm Zane...the camera pans to another statue of Younger Zane and Vex.

WU (V.O.)

Where is your father, son?

A statue of the lighthouse forms.

YOUNGER ZANE (V.O.)

A father? I don't follow. Should I look for one? Is that where home is?

WIDE SHOT: Looking down onto the forest overhead.

WU (V.O.)

How long have you been wandering these forests?

CLOSE UP: Zane's face. His expression is flat.

YOUNGER ZANE (V.O.)

For as long as I can remember.

END MONTAGE

PAN SHOT: Zane stops walking. The camera pans clockwise around his face. When we return to his front the color scheme is much bluer as if it's night. Everything is less saturated now, accompanied by light rain.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

It is now night. Zane looks down. We see DREAM VEX right in front of Zane. Dream Vex puts a hand on Zane's cheek.

DREAM VEX

I know you miss me.

Dream Vex hugs Zane. Zane leans in but his expression remains unmoved.

DREAM VEX

Coming home to Ninjago hasn't been what you imagined, hasn't it? If it really is home. You could have stayed with me. I kept you safe all those years.

Zane lifts his head up and faces Dream Vex. However, the figure in front of Zane changes from Dream Vex to DREAM JULIEN. Dream Julien puts his hand on Zane's cheek.

DREAM JULIEN

Hello son. I know you miss me too.

Dream Julien pulls Zane in for a hug. Zane leans in but his expression remains unmoved.

DREAM JULIEN

Everything is going to be okay.

Dream Vex appears next to Dream Julien.

DREAM VEX

Nothing is okay.

The ice creeps in front of Zane. Zane looks but Dream Julien refocuses Zane's attention on him.

DREAM JULIEN

The ice can't hurt you.

DREAM VEX

Of course, it can.

Dream Julien turns to Dream Vex.

DREAM JULIEN

It's meant to save people.

DREAM VEX

It's meant to hurt people.

DREAM JULIEN

It's beautiful!

DREAM VEX

It's to be feared!

DREAM JULIEN

What is there to be fearful of?

DREAM VEX

It's master. He should be feared.

Dream Julien faces Zane.

DREAM JULIEN

Don't listen to him. You were not made
(MORE)

DREAM JULIEN (CONT'D)
to be feared.

DREAM VEX
Are you really going to listen to him
after what he did to you?

DREAM JULIEN
I did nothing but care for you Zane.

DREAM VEX
As did I. *I protected you.*

Zane steps away from both of them.

ZANE
(Quietly) Both of you...ruined me.

Light thunder is heard.

DREAM JULIEN
Ruined you?

DREAM VEX
Ruined you?

DREAM JULIEN
I created you!

ZANE
You flipped the switch.

DREAM VEX
I cared for you!

ZANE
You pulled the plug.

DREAM JULIEN
I did nothing but love you!
Teach you! Give you a home!

DREAM VEX
I did nothing but love you!
Teach you! Give you a home!

ZANE
You took everything that I loved away!
You hurt me! You made me hurt others!

Zane's hands begin to SHAKE.

DREAM JULIEN
I only asked one thing of
you! To Protect people!

DREAM VEX
I only asked one thing of
you! To Hurt people!

ZANE
I'm sorry! It's not as simple as it-

DREAM JULIEN
What are you good for if you
can't do what I ask for?

DREAM VEX
What are you good for if you
can't do what I ask for?

ZANE
Wait! Please!

DREAM JULIEN
You failed us!

DREAM VEX
You failed us!

ZANE
I gave my life for what you asked for!
Was it not enough? Am I not enough!?

DREAM VEX
I'm freezing alone in the Never Realm
right now!

Zane looks angry and conflicted.

DREAM JULIEN
Like you let people freeze in piles of
ice for decades!

Zane closes his hands into fists. THUNDERCLAPS. The music turns SINISTER. Suddenly the two men that stand in front of Zane have large spears of ice PIERCING their chests. Zane's mouth drops at the sight of this. Blood SPILLING from their wounds.

ZANE
(Screaming) No!

Zane runs up to them sobbing, only to discover they are STATUES of ice. Zane steps away breathing heavily. THUNDERCLAPS. He turns around to find a statue of himself from moments ago. An angry expression is written over the statue's face. He turns away to find a statue of the ICE EMPEROR over LLOYD. Zane stumbles backward and puts his hand over his mouth. His breathing is loud and uncontrollable. The ice on the ground has become thick. Zane looks around, seeing statues everywhere. He scratches at his hands trying to get the ice off. He tries a rock and when that fails he breaks off an ICICLE and pries at his hands. The cap over his core opens. He pauses. Looks at his chest and back at the icicle. His hand shakes. He holds the icicle up to his chest, his face relaxes for a moment. Another thunderclap and in front of him a statue of Pixal appears. He looks at her and drops the icicle. He RUNS. The ice FOLLOWS suit.

WU (V.O)
You are the Master of Ice, son.

YOUNGER ZANE (V.O.)
What does that mean?

WU (V.O)
You have power, and you must use it to
defend others.

Ice wraps itself around the trees and forms a statue of the
GOLDEN MASTER.

NEVERREALM ZANE
What does it mean to be Emperor, Vex?

VEX (V.O)
It means you have power, power you
must use to defend your throne.

Statues of Ice Samurai form.

NEVERREALM ZANE
What if someone gets hurt?

A statue of Lloyd and the others appear, spears of ice
running through their chest.

VEX (V.O)
It's either you or them, and you come
first.

A statue of young Zane appears playing with toys.

WU (V.O)
As a ninja, it is your duty to use
your power for good.

A statue of Zane with the staff of forbidden spinjtzu
appears. Another of Aspheera.

VEX (V.O)
It's all about you my Emperor.

A statue of the Ice emperor on his throne appears and a
statue of Vex follows suit.

Zane runs into a clearing with a large lake in the middle.

EXT. FOREST - SUNRISE

The color scheme changes back to saturated and colorful as it was before. Zane looks at the sunrise. His hyperventilating calms down. Light violin music plays.

CLOSE-UP SHOT IN SLOW MO: Zane's eyes looking at the sunrise.

Zane's eyes are fixed on the sunrise. He walks unknowingly out onto the lake. Ice keeping him from falling in. He watches and the magical dream-like aura returns.

OVER WHITE:

SUPER: 7 days later...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The Ninja, Pixal, and Jorge are seen walking in a different part of the forest. They are wearing casual clothes and have large backpacks on. Pixal is in the front while Cole and Kai are behind her. Jay and Nya are behind them and Lloyd is in the back lagging behind. Jorge is over Cole's shoulder again, he seems to be rambling about something...

JORGE

Hero Log #849. The Mayor of Ninjago city is now my dad. Zane was wrongfully interrogated by the police and ran away about a week ago. We got fired from our jobs.

Jorge presses a few buttons on his jacket.

JORGE

Hero Log #850. The Ninja are homeless. They were only able to get a few basic items back. We found Zane's trail and we are on our way to find him.

Jorge presses the same buttons on his jacket.

JORGE

Hero Log #85-

Cole squeezes Jorge to get him to be quiet...

COLE

How many times are you gonna do that?

JORGE

I have to catch up on my journal. I have to document my entire journey as a hero.

COLE

But we just got "fired".

Nya rolls her eyes in the background...

NYA

The Mayor can't fire us! Ninjago needs us.

JORGE

Exactly! You guys will find a way. I know you will.

Kai stares curiously at Jorge, who is still messing with his strange jacket...

KAI

My phone died days ago, how does that sleeve on your jacket still work?

JORGE

My jacket uses solar panels, but Jay also charged it.

Kai turns to Jay.

KAI

You charged his weird Jacket and not my phone?

PIXAL

We are miles away from any cell tower, your phone won't be of much use as of right now.

Kai frowns and fiddles with the dead phone.

JORGE

Kai your hair looks great! How does it look the same after a week?

NYA

Jorge don't-

Kai lights up.

KAI
I am glad you asked!

NYA
Here we go.

KAI
I have developed the perfect 12 step
method to styling my hair. My hair can
withstand almost anything-

LATER

Everyone has grown tired of Kai discussing his hair routine,
even Jorge who frowns and slowly slips from Cole's grasp in
the background...

COLE
Kai, we get it your hair is gr-

Cole looks over to his arm where Jorge is supposed to be. He
glances behind him and then ABOVE him. Cole's face warps from
his confusion when he sees Jorge floating in the air upside
down. Everyone in the group looks just as confused.

COLE
What?

Jorge flips over onto the ground and jumps back up in the
air. He repeats this process. Each time falling to the ground
in what seems like slow motion.

JORGE
As much as being held by the Earth
Master is awesome, I need to stretch--
And Kai is starting to bore me.

KAI
Hey! you asked!

JORGE
Regrettably.

NYA
How are you- *doing that?*

JORGE
Doing what?

COLE
Dude, you're floating.

JORGE

Oh yeah!-

Jorge points to his boots.

JORGE

Gravity boots. They can nullify the effect of gravity, or strengthen it. So I can reach greater heights without hurting myself.

JAY

That's actually really cool! Did you make them?

JORGE

Yea I did, You think so?

JAY

Yeah! I have never thought to make anything like that.

Jorge smiles.

COLE

Alright fine. You can do...whatever you are doing. But you have to tell us what you know about your father.

Jorge's smile fades as he floats to the ground and walks next to Pixal, putting his hands in his jacket pocket. He is silent for a moment, then speaks.

JORGE

My dad is a very wealthy man, and very passionate about his work. He rose up the ranks in the government and eventually became head of his own branch. In this particular area of the government, they specialize in two things. Information gathering, and combat. Specifically, hand-to-hand, and gadget-to-gadget combat. It's called Spade.

JAY

That's a strange name.

JORGE

He likes card games and chess. But yeah, they recruit people from all

(MORE)

JORGE (CONT'D)

backgrounds and train them to go on missions. He recruited me after I graduated high school, and I obliged because I thought Spade was great. The branch helps its agents and the agents help people.

JAY

Well, they don't seem so great as of now.

JORGE

Yeah, I've realized.

PIXAL

What did you do during the time you spent as an agent at Spade?

JORGE

Not as much as I wanted to do. I don't think my dad expected much from me, but I did tinker and help build the gadgets active agents used.

COLE

So what happened? Are you still working for them-

PIXAL

And if not, why?

IN SLOW MO...Jorge stares off into space. The sounds of the scene fade out and are replaced with sounds of FIRE.

FLASHBACK JORGE (V.O.)

(Screaming) Papa?! Hana?! Hanako!

LLOYD (V.O)

Jorge, answer their questions.

Jorge shakes his head as Lloyd's voice brings him back to reality. Jorge looks back at Lloyd who is glaring at him and presses his lips together.

JORGE

I uh- wasn't really vibing with it y'know? Prefer to work alone, so I left. One thing led to another and...I ended up alone...

Silence fills our ears as Kai takes out a mirror from his backpack and starts checking himself out.

JORGE

But uh- I got you guys now, so not alone anymore.

Lloyd scoffs quietly. Nya hears and turns to him.

NYA

Are you okay Lloyd? You've barely spoken since we started this journey.

LLOYD

I'm alright.

Nya looks at him and notices distracted he seems. She thinks to herself a moment.

NYA

(Quietly) Is there something you aren't telling us about Zane? You seem to be really upset with him, and you were the only one who actually saw him as the Emperor.

Nya makes eye contact with Lloyd but he does not look at her. Instead, he gazes off past her shoulder and notices GLISTENING in the distance. Lloyd then makes eye contact with her.

LLOYD

(Quietly) I will feel better once we find Zane and this is all over.

Nya nods.

NYA

Same here.

Nya turns back around. Lloyd looks around and LEAVES quietly into the forest.

ON PIXAL

At the front of the line, Pixal is moving her eyes side to side. There is a faint sound emitting from her, a sound that Jorge notices.

JORGE

What're you doin'?

PIXAL

Hm- what?

JORGE

You're buzzing.

PIXAL

Oh. I am redirecting power to only necessary systems.

JORGE

Why do you needa do that?

PIXAL

I am running on reserves.

JORGE

A Nindroid would only need to run purely on reserves if they have are suffering from an extreme case of exhaustion.

PIXAL

Well, I have not- *How do you know that?*

JORGE

I uh. Studied under Cyrus Borg.

PIXAL

Seems like something my father would have told me about.

JORGE

I asked him not to say anything, didn't want people to know. But you've been real busy anyway, with protecting the city all on your own for months.

Pixal is silent.

JORGE

I mean I helped too, just on the down-low. Not really qualified for the big stuff yet.

Pixal remains silent. Jorge frowns.

JORGE

Running on reserves puts too much stress on your core. You could go into
(MORE)

JORGE (CONT'D)
shock if you aren't careful.

PIXAL
I am aware of how my body functions
Jorge. Trust me, I try to sleep every
night-- and fail every time.

JORGE
Usually, when I can't sleep, it's
cause I'm scared. Are you scared?

Pixel does not respond. Toward the back of the line, Jay
holds Nya's hand.

NYA
This forest sure is beautiful.

JAY
Not as beautiful as you.

Kai rolls his eyes and picks up a stick and aims it at
Jorge's boot. Cole looks at him and watches. Pixel turns to
Jorge ready to answer him but when Kai pokes at Jorge's
boots, he goes FLYING into the air.

JORGE
(Screaming) Oh my master!

KAI
Oops.

Kai throws the stick into the forest as Jorge is flailing in
the air.

COLE
I should've stopped you, but I knew
this would be hilarious.

One of Jorge's boots turns off, causing Jorge to FALL.

JAY
Is it a bird?

KAI
Is it a plane?

COLE
Nope.

Jorge falls to the ground with a thud.

COLE
It's gravity boy.

Jorge sits up slowly. He has leaves and sticks in his hair.
Pixal has a hand over her mouth.

JORGE
I can't say I haven't considered that
as my hero name- ow.

Pixal just looks upon them and starts LAUGHING. The others
look at her and slowly join in. Cole pulls Jorge to his feet.

COLE
(Laughing) You're real funny man.

Jorge gazes upon the Ninja and Pixal laughing hysterically.
He smiles and joins in. Pixal looks around laughing.

PIXAL (V.O)
Normally, you can avoid a nightmare by
staying awake-

Her laughing slowly fades as she grows more concerned...

PIXAL
Where is Lloyd?

Everyone's laughter quickly fades as they start looking
around.

COLE
Pix, you don't think he-

NYA
Found Zane?... He looked over my
shoulder earlier and I didn't think
much of it at first but-

JORGE
Maybe he just got lost.

Pixal looks angry.

PIXAL (V.O)
But nightmares have ways of seeping
into reality unknowingly.

She then reaches behind her back and UNSHEATHES her sword.

PIXAL (V.O)
When *that* happens-

PIXAL
For his sake. He better be.

OVER BLACK:

PIXAL (V.O)
All hell breaks loose.

FADE OUT.