Captain Calamari and the Mogul Mongoose

**R**aj Kumar was just an ordinary farmer who was peacefully milking his goat on a rural farm in India. He had a dark tan face, a pair of sunglasses, and was wearing a large yellowish-brown dhoti. It was dirty, as he was in the field all day. He almost had a bucket full of milk when flying whales and snakes attacked him. He noticed that there were creatures, *flying* in the sky, who weren’t birds. In fact, they were unidentifiable, but some looked like half whale, half human, and they were all the same dark purple, with layers of fat, while others appeared as... snakes? What were those things, and what on earth were they doing up there?

Raj looked back to his goat, only to find that it mysteriously disappeared, along with the milk! Was magic playing before his own eyes? Before he could have run, the creatures all landed and surrounded him. Terrified, he bent down to his knees and shouted, “What do you people want from me?”

The largest, fattest whale-human cried out, “Remember me, Captain Calamari? I am the Salty Spwale. You overthrew me as king of the ocean! I want my revenge.” He glared at Raj’s sweaty face with a wicked grin. “Look at this coward, everyone. Scared of his own death. A few days ago, he was boasting that he isn’t afraid of death. Easy to say, but it isn’t easy when you actually experience it, right?”

Raj was too stunned to speak. The Salty Spwale raised up his arm, and a snake emerged from the crowd, slithering, and bit Raj in the calf. He cried out in pain as the venom seeped into his body.

“That is only the appetizer, Captain Calamari! Soon, YOU will become an Italian appetizer!”

Another whale-human raised up a red knife, but before he could strike Raj’s head, a large tentacle blocked it and hit him in the head.

A large reddish figure jumped down. It was a large squid, but also had human characteristics. He was wearing sunglasses, so it was obvious he had two eyes. He had an entire six arms, excluding his hands and feet. Apparently, he had seen the whole thing from the roof of the clay hut which Raj lived in.

The ruffians were astonished, along with Raj. Who was this other man? Where did he come from?

The squid-human helped up Raj and his broken leg, and the goons made an opening. He escorted him to his clay hut, where he locked him there, so he could see everything in safety.

He turned around sharply and started walking toward the goons. “Whoever said that I am a coward, WON’T live to see daylight! I am not scared! I am not a coward!” He shouted.

“Captain. Calamari. THE captain. A captain of 100 people. Invincible. And you know why I am Calamari? Because I will NEVER become it! I will never lose to you, nor death!” He looked around as the thugs averted their eyes. “Forget you lowlifes, even death itself cannot look me into the eye!

“I swear that if I die now, or even one of you survive, then you can break my sunglasses, and bury me in the ground. Beware, I ALWAYS do what I say!

“And yes. I also do what I *don’t* say!

“You want a piece of me? Try me. Come on. COME ON!” He shouted at the crowd.

This whole time, everyone was whimpering and afraid, but after a few moments, one snake charged, to which Captain Calamari stuck out a tentacle and suffocated him. Then, he waved all of the tentacles, and spun them in a wide circle. Almost all of the hoodlums dropped down dead, and the ground was soon as red as Captain Calamari’s skin.  The only survivors of his hands of doom were the Salty Spwale, a small snake, and a much larger snake.

“You see? Death has been following around for months! It would’ve had to get past the goons I killed to get me! Now surrender. Give up your evil ways,” Captain Calamari boasted.

Salty Spwale replied, “That’s what you think, fool. We are three, you are one. You didn’t manage to kill me, who is the leader, nor his sidekick, the Slithery Coab, or even this snake, who was the one who bit that weakling oaf in that hut!”

Those last words set Raj on fire. Forgetting about his flawed leg, he instantly grabbed a stick from his hut, jumped out of the window, charged at the snake who had injured him, and beat him until he dropped dead. When he was done, he was puffing. He then wore the dead snake around his neck to symbolize he beat him.

Salty Spwale looked at horror at Raj, and then said, “Well, now there are two of us. But we are still stronger than you alone!”

“Who said that I am alone?” Captain Calamari contradicted.

It didn’t take Raj much contemplation to realize what he was saying.

“Alright,” Salty Spwale said, “You can take this puny mortal who needs anger management, and Slithery Coab and I can remain strong. Beware, *I will get you someday*.” And with that, both disappeared in mid-air.

Raj turned to this supernatural wonder, and was about to thank him, when he fell to the floor with a thud. Instantly panicking, Raj bent down and checked his heartbeat. “Captain! CAPTAIN! Are you okay? Speak to me! You saved my life! You can’t end it! Like you said yourself, death can’t take you!”

His heart was still beating, and it he seemed unconscious, like he fainted. He was no doctor, as his tiny village was too poor to afford one, so he wondered, why did he faint?

Suddenly, without warning, it started to rain. Not a drizzle, but buckets of it. In a few minutes, he regained consciousness.  Smiling, he stared at Raj.  “I fainted because I was deprived of water for too long. I am a squid, obviously.”

“Who are you? What’s going on? Tell me everything!” Raj demanded.

Captain Calamari didn’t say anything, just took off his sunglasses. To Raj’s amazement, he transformed into a human. The particular thing was, he looked exactly like Raj!

Then he spoke, “I am Captain Calamari, aka CC. My real name is Ralph Smith. There is no point in telling my history, or Salty Spwale, aka SS’s history. We must look into the future. That fat whale was the king of the ocean with cruelty, until I rebelled and created a peaceful environment. But I didn’t kill him. I need some help. A sidekick’s help.”

“How can I be your sidekick? I don’t have any intelligence, let alone superpowers.”

“Really? Well, I’d disagree. Look down at your body.”

Raj looked, and was speechless as he noticed he had brown fur, paws, and a tail. He was a mongoose!

“I, CC, hereby take you, Mr. Raj Kumar, as my sidekick. You will be Mogul Mongoose, aka MM, and you will be hiding to secretly kill enemies. Plus, your anger can cause some destruction on the goons. Just beware, don’t let your anger get out of control. It is your strength, and also your weakness.”

“So when do we start?”

“Now!” And with that, CC grabbed MM and both jumped into the sky.