

Death 2051

Death... and me

Chapter 2051: Came to Life

"So, simply put, the damage in the Universe's Foundation was a foreseen outcome. It was the result of the destruction of the Extinction Sphere," Gem concluded the answer to the first question.

"Now, your second question. Why did the Universe get split in half as a result?" Gem thought about the past as he recounted the events. "Because I was forced to initiate the Severing Formations Array ahead of time, I wasn't able to control its power as well as I intended. As you know, the formation was going to split the Yin and yang energies inside the Extinction Sphere. With that, they wouldn't be able to complement each other anymore."

"Unfortunately, because I couldn't control the power of the formation, the split of the Extinction Sphere's energy didn't go as planned. Both energies inside it went chaotic instead of dissipating, and the result was the Universe Split. The foundation of the Universe was hit by that, and the power of the Yin and Yang worked as the two forces that separated the two parts."

Roan understood. "One half had the energies necessary for cultivation, while the other half didn't. Everything has its counterpart in the Universe, so this separation was basically one being the counterpart of the other. One you can cultivate, the other you can't."

Gem nodded in response. "It's quite simple in the end, don't you think?" From there, Gem entered the third question. "Now, about how the Soul Gem System came to life. The reason behind it is its connection with the Universe's Sentience. I needed something capable of growing strong enough to fix the Universe's damage and unite both sides. Naturally, the only thing I had the confidence of being capable of such a thing was the Control Orb."

"That also brings me to Rean's fourth question. Since my soul was damaged after the Universe separation, how did I work on the plan to reunite it? The point is that I didn't fall into a slumber straight away. Have you noticed the Orb's two main energies?"

Rean and Roan nodded. "Yin and Yang, obviously."

Gem continued from there. "That's correct. The Control Orb had the power to split the Yin and Yang energy inside the Extinction Sphere. However, the Control Orb did not have these energies itself. What I did was absorb some of the Extinction Sphere's purest Yin and Yang Energy to keep myself awake."

"In the process, the Control Orb ended up gaining its properties as a result. That was a very good outcome, though. That allowed me to devise a reunion plan for the two sides of the Universe. Since it was the Yin and Yang power of the Extinction Sphere that caused the Universe separation, naturally, it could be used to fix it."

"That's where you two come in. Your soul's connection to the other side will allow the Soul Gem Orb to connect with the Yin and Yang energies there. The System was a byproduct of my plan for this reunion. Being integrated with the Control Orb allowed me to understand many secrets of the Universe, and especially the destiny attached to it. That said, I used the Extinction Sphere's energy that kept my soul awake to create the System."

"Once it was complete, I sent the Soul Gem orb to the other side. Because the Orb had both the Yin and Yang energies used for the separation of the Universe, it had the power to traverse between both sides. It couldn't be used as a link, but it was good enough to be used to find someone capable of that."

"Wait!" Rean immediately stopped Gem there. "Does that mean we could use the Soul Gem Orb to go back to the other side of the Universe?"

Gem laughed in response. "Hahaha! That's correct! It can indeed be used to bring you two to the other side. Not only that, but you will need to go back there once you try to reunite both sides." Of course, Gem also understood what Rean and Roan were thinking. "It's just that you are too weak to do that now, just like me. Two conditions have to be fulfilled before the Soul Gem System can be used to traverse to the other side. First, my soul has to recover at least 80% or more. The second is that you need to at least reach the Divinity Realm."

Rean couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. "It's basically as if you had said no."

Gem shrugged his shoulders. "Don't blame me. Back then, the remaining energy of the Extinction Sphere was used to send the Soul Gem Orb to the other side and bring you here. As a result, it was completely spent, and my soul finally fell into a deep slumber. I don't even know what happened between the Universe's Separation and the time I sent the Orb to the other side. All the energy I had I used to devise this Unification Plan, so I didn't see the outcome of that calamity on this side."

Gem finally finished his explanations. "So, with that, I have now answered all your previous questions. Is there anything else you want to know before I go back to sleep?"

"Master!" Sesame immediately intervened. "What about me?"

Gem shook his head. "There isn't much that can be done about you, Sesame. While your soul is still attached to this place, you can't go anywhere else."

Sesame obviously didn't seem very happy. "That's so unfair..."

Rean then looked at Sesame and had a thought. "By the way, Gem, is Sesame really a cat? I mean, a real cat from back on Earth?"

Gem shook his head again. "Of course not! First of all, Sesame is definitely much older than your planet Earth itself. How could it be a cat from there? He isn't a cat at all. It's just a coincidence. Sesame is part of an extremely rare race called the Pixiu."

"Pixiu?" Rean had heard that name somewhere before. "The Pixiu I remember from the stories back on Earth didn't look like a cat at all."

Gem didn't find it surprising. "They don't really have a fixed form. In Sesame's case, he simply looks like a cat from your world. It's that simple."

"I see..." Rean nodded, not putting too much thought into it.

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Chapter 2052: What is That?

"By the way," Roan thought about something else, "how long has it been since you sent the Soul Gem Orb to the other side of the Universe? Could it be that the Orb stayed there until it found a specific target? As far as I remember, the Soul Gem Orb was located inside Rean's soul when we first met after his death."

Gem shook his head. "That I'm not sure myself. What I'm sure about is that a huge amount of time passed between the moment I sent the Orb to the other side and the moment it entered Rean's soul. If I were to guess, I would say yes, Rean was selected on purpose."

Naturally, Rean got curious. "Why is that? Other than my soul being unable to express emotions, I had nothing different from other people. Let alone something different from any other race in that part of the Universe. Not to mention that my lack of emotions was because the Soul Gem Orb was inside my soul, so it was the culprit."

"That's the part I believe is connected to the real reason," Soul Gem immediately replied. "The Soul Gem Orb should have no power whatsoever to prevent your emotions from working."

"What?!" Rean was taken aback. "I've always thought that my lack of emotions was a byproduct of the existence of the Soul Gem Orb inside my soul."

Roan nodded. "I thought the same thing. I read all his portfolio until the moment of his passing since I was a Death Spirit. He hadn't expressed a shred of emotion all his life until the point of his death. The only moment it changed was a few seconds before his body finally shut down."

Soul Gem pondered a bit and continued. "What if the Soul Gem Orb considered your lack of emotions as some kind of requirement? Or perhaps it was the Soul Gem Orb itself that fixed your soul. I mean, if it wasn't there, perhaps you would never feel anything until the day you died."

"You saying that the Soul Gem Orb fixed my soul and the lack of emotions?" Rean asked back.

"It's a possibility." Soul Gem knew that it was probable. "The only question is why. I created the System, but the Orb is, after all, part of the Universe's sentience. Perhaps it was the same as that time with me. It wasn't me who selected you, but the Universe's Sentience itself."

Now that Roan heard that, he thought about something. "You did say that the Universe's sentience was bleak. It had long since stopped caring about anything and didn't really mind if it was destroyed by the Extinction Sphere. It even considered that it would be a liberation from its shackles of existence. Simply put, it lacked any emotions. Maybe it saw in Rean what it saw in itself. No emotions, bleak existence, completely useless, no one cared with reason, nothing mattered, the perfect choice."

Rean's mouth twitched a bit. "Why do I feel like you are cursing me instead?"

"It's your imagination," Roan answered straight away. Rean didn't believe that at all, though.

"Ahem..." Suddenly, Kentucky raised his hand. So far, he had been silent, so Rean, Roan, and Gem had even forgotten about him. "Why did Roan come with Rean, then?"

That question immediately damped Roan's mood. "Because someone didn't know how to peacefully pass away."

Rean felt like giving Roan a beating. "Peacefully pass away... your ass! If you didn't insist on sending me into the Path of Reincarnation, why would you get involved in this? You could have simply let me alone. Do you think I would want to come with you? If anything, it was your fault for being too careless."

Soul Gem shrugged his shoulders and paid no heed to the twins' bickering. "It wasn't supposed to be two people, Kentucky. The System that I created with the Control Orb almost got destroyed when it detected two souls in its range when it activated. Simply put, Roan was extremely unlucky to be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Roan couldn't help but sigh, but it was too late to complain, so he didn't.

Kentucky just nodded. "Oh! So that's how it is. Thanks."

Suddenly, Roan remembered something. "Forget that. Soul Gem, is the Soul Gem Orb made with a Universe's Fragment?"

Back then, Rean and Roan wondered if the Soul Gem Orb was a fragment. After all, considering its powers, it seemed a probable conclusion. However, now they know that the Control Orb came into existence before the Extinction Sphere was destroyed. It was the destruction of the Extinction Sphere that caused the Universe's Foundation Pillar to be damaged, so the timings didn't match.

Gem obviously understood what Roan was thinking. "No, it is not... or so I wish I could say."

"Why is that?" Their attention was immediately caught.

"Well, the Soul Gem System only works due to the Orb's amazing abilities. The Orb was given to me by the Universe's Sentience, right? It should have the power to extract a piece of the Universe Foundation Pillar to make it. Perhaps the entire Orb is a huge fragment itself," Gem explained. "At the same time, it might have nothing to do with the fragments at all."

Rean and the others nodded. "In any case, we will find out once we gather at least 13 fragments. If we go to the Foundation Pillar and it allows us to get close, that will mean that the 14th fragment is the Soul Gem Orb. If it doesn't, then we will know that the Soul Gem Orb is not part of it. Or, at least, not a part of a damaged area of the pillar like the other fragments."

Celis, who was still inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, was also listening to the conversation through their connection. "Still, I have to admit that System AI you created is really impressive. If we didn't know Sister Orb was part of the System, we would definitely think she was a real being."

Soul Gem looked at them with confusion. "System AI? What is that?"

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Chapter 2053: As Useful As You Are

Rean and Roan felt a chill on their backs when Gem asked that question. "We are talking about Sister Orb, the System AI that has been helping us all this time while you have been sleeping!"

Soul Gem's confusion only increased. "I left no such thing behind. The system was something that you would be able to figure out on your own by accessing the information in the Soul Gem Orb. At most, the system would warn you about quests or dangers and things like that. It wasn't supposed to have any AI whatsoever."

It was then that Roan remembered something. "Now that I think about it, last time when Soul Gem awoke, Sister Orb went completely silent. She only reappeared once Soul Gem went back to his hibernation."

"This is not right." Gem narrowed his eyes as he looked at the Soul Gem Orb under him. "Could it be..."

Right after, the Soul Gem Orb shined as a voice came out of it. [Hahahaha... Seems like I was caught. If Celis hadn't said anything, no one would notice it.] Sure enough, it was Sister Orb's voice.

"Sister Orb!" Immediately, everyone called Sister Orb out.

Soul Gem, on the other hand, felt like an old memory had suddenly surfaced. "This voice... You are the Universe's Sentience!"

Following that, the Soul Gem Orb separated from Gem's Astral Projection, putting some distance between them. Well, that was just to make it easier to tell them apart as two different beings. After all, Gem's Soul was still inside the Soul Gem Orb. [Yo, Gem brat! You really have a hard time dying, don't you? Still, I have to say. This Soul Gem System you created with my Control Orb by manipulating the power of Destiny is truly a marvelous invention. Don't worry. You can continue to nurture your soul in this Control Orb of mine. I will not get in the way of your plans. If anything, I've been helping a lot so far.]

Gem looked at that as he thought about what to say.

The twins' group was speechless too. They had always thought that Sister Orb was created by Soul Gem. Never had they thought that Sister Orb was any bullshit AI but the Universe Sentience. "Sister Orb... No, should we really be calling you that? Should we call you Universe Sentience? Just Universe? We are confused."

[You can keep calling me Sister Orb. After all, I've never had a name before. Besides, I quite like how it sounds. It makes me feel like I'm your older sister.]

Finally, Soul Gem opened his mouth again. "Universe Sentience... No, Sister Orb, right? Since you don't mind this name, I will also use it. What is happening here? Why are you using the Control Orb to speak your mind? You could literally share your voice with everyone on both sides of the Universe if you wanted."

[I can't,] Sister Orb answered. [I am not connected to the Universe Foundation anymore.]

"What?!" Everyone was taken aback. "What do you mean?"

Gem was even more confused. "Sister... Orb... why do I feel like you are very different? If not because of your voice and aura, I wouldn't recognize you. Your demeanor is nothing like what you showed me at all."

[The answer to both of your questions is the same. Soul Gem, you weren't wrong about what you said. I truly had no shred of emotion anymore when I was one with this Universe. I've seen so many years go by that nothing caught my interest. Only you were successful in doing that with that Severing Formations Array of yours.]

[I thought, since you were able to entertain me back then, perhaps you can do that again. So I made a decision that day when I gave you the Control Orb, I put my own sentience inside. Sure enough, you didn't disappoint me. You created this unbelievable system. You created a plan to unify both sides. Above all, these twins had been entertaining me for the past hundreds of years without failing. I am truly grateful.]

Roan's mouth twitched a bit. "Entertainment? Is that all we are to you? Stop bullshitting and connect back to the Universe. Take the chance and connect both sides again so that we won't have more problems."

[Sigh... Alright, I'll do it. You are no fun.]

The others heard that question and couldn't help but wonder in amazement. 'Will everything be over that easily?' Even Soul Gem was no exception as he looked at the Soul Gem Orb with incredulity. Too bad that idea didn't last more than a second...

[Or so I would like to say. But hey, guess what? I can't! Tee Hee!]

"Tee Hee! Your ass!" Roan almost exploded and immediately tried to kick the Soul Gem Orb.

Bang!

Well, it was useless. Even though Roan used his full body strength, the Soul Gem Orb didn't even bulge. [What? You wanna get another beating? I might not be connected to the Universe anymore, but that doesn't mean I'm not stronger than you.]

Roan gritted his teeth but retracted his leg. He could only mentally curse, knowing that Sister Orb was indeed too strong for him to fight against.

[Good boy! Now, I think you all are wondering why I'm here, right? The reason is exactly as I said. I was too bored. Soul Gem's appearance was my chance to finally have some fun after so many years. That said, I took my chance and joined the Control Orb. There, I stayed silent until the Control Orb selected Rean during his birth.]

Sister Orb then looked at Rean and Roan. [Hahahaha! Still, I've never expected to see a dead soul pulling a Death Spirit into the reincarnation path with him. Now, that was truly marvelous! It made it worth every second I kept myself hidden inside. Do you have any idea how hard it was to hold my laugh that day? It was amazing!]

Rean and Roan didn't know what to say anymore.

Soul Gem, on the other hand, was more curious about what mattered. "Since you are here and have revealed yourself, you can definitely help us with the unification plan, right?"

Unfortunately, Sister Orb denied that idea. [Nope. I'm as useful as you are in this regard.]

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Chapter 2054: No Help?

Naturally, no one believed that straight away. "As useful as Gem? That's not possible. You are the Universe's Sentience!"

[Sure am... or was, to be more specific.] Sister Orb explained.

The twins' group looked at the Soul Gem Orb, knowing that Sister Orb would continue to talk. [Gem mentioned it already. I was so bored and dulled that I simply didn't care about anything anymore. So,

why should I care about what would happen to the Universe? I just wanted to change my destiny. That said, I separated myself from the Universe.]

[That day, when I passed the Control Orb to Gem, was also the day that I lost all connection with the Universe. I'm truly, just a sentience. It isn't wrong to call me an AI, either, since I'm not that far from one. I can work with the system Gem created, after all. Unfortunately, my influence only applies to the Soul Gem Orb and the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm.]

Sister Orb then looked at Gem. [Have you never wondered why the system you created worked so perfectly? I mean, you found pretty much no obstacles during the creation of the system by using the Control Orb's properties.]

Gem didn't seem surprised when he heard those words. "So that's how it is. You were right. I was indeed impressed that the system worked perfectly from the very start. I thought it was due to the Control Orb's exceptional abilities. But now that I know you were there, it is very obvious that you intervened every time during the system creation, right? You made sure that the System compatibility got no issues."

Sister Orb confirmed Gem's words. [Exactly. That's also why I can work with the system since I put myself within its creation. In any case, that's all there is to it. Now I can't do anything about the situation of the Universe even if I wanted to. After so long, the Universe that I was part of has changed. Not only did the Universe change, but so did my sentience, or soul, for that matter. I wouldn't be able to integrate myself with the Universe anymore, even if I wanted to.]

[And you better be careful. Since my sentience left the Universe, there is a chance that a new sentience was born in my place. Of course, it's only a chance. If I were to risk a guess, I would say that not enough time has passed for that to really happen. I myself took a ridiculous amount of time to come to be.]

Rean pondered a bit before asking. "So, you are just Sister Orb now, right? Still, you were the Universe's Sentience before. You definitely have the answer to a lot of our questions. Not only that, the number of secrets that you know should be more than enough for Roan and me to reach the Divinity Realm."

[That's not gonna happen,] Sister Orb immediately cut Rean off. [I thought something like this might happen one day, so I sealed my own memories. As a matter of fact, it was only when Soul Gem found out about my existence that I myself discovered that I was the Universe Sentience. Until a few minutes ago, I truly thought I was nothing more than the AI Soul Gem created.]

[As for secrets of the Universe, all the ones that matter to you and would still be available after so long are sealed. I can't remember anything useful.]

Roan didn't quite believe that. "Is that so? Then you wouldn't mind if we tried to search for it in your memories, right?"

Soul Gem shook his head straight away. "If you think I have a way to peek into the Universe Sentience's memories, then you are wrong. I didn't even know it was there until a moment ago. First of all, is Sister Orb's soul really a soul? It is different from anything that was born in this Universe before. It's not like I can pull her out."

[You wouldn't want it anyway,] Sister Orb continued. [I'm part of the system. I'm the reason why it works so smoothly too. If you pull me out, which I don't think it is possible to start with, the system would collapse. I'm the mediator between the system and the Control Orb. My sentience itself keeps everything together.]

[Of course, if you don't mind losing the system and the Soul Gem Realm forever, then by all means, go ahead and give it a try. I only became this because I didn't want to live like I did before. I have experienced a lot and had a lot of fun thanks to these two. I have no regrets anymore.]

Rean and Roan couldn't see Sister Orb's face because she didn't have a body. That made it hard for them to tell whether she was lying or not. Yet, they felt that she was truly not lying. Perhaps it was due to the Soul Connection between them. But then again, perhaps it was also Sister Orb who was manipulating it to make them feel like that.

However, Rean and Roan just shook their heads in the end. "Forget it. Sister Orb is definitely not lying."

Celis, Kentucky, Gem, Sesame and Luan looked at the twins. "How can you be sure?"

Roan shrugged his shoulders. "She is too stupid for it."

Rean nodded. "Not to mention childish..."

Sister Orb would vomit blood if she had a body now. [Fuck you! Who the hell is stupid and childish?! Do you know how many times older than you I am? Even Roan's entire life as a Death Spirit isn't anything but a drop of water in the ocean compared to me!]

"Ha!" Roan snorted in response. "And what's the use of that if all this ancient memory is sealed? Isn't that the same as saying that you lost all that age?"

[This...] Sister Orb had no answer to that.

Finally, Gem raised his hand. "Ahem... if Rean and Roan believe it, then so be it. Still..." His expression turned serious. "Is there really nothing you can help us with?"

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Chapter 2055: Another Plane

Sister Orb hesitated a bit but decided to tell them. [Well... I don't know why, but it seems the previous me didn't seal this one specific memory and the things related to it. It's a place that only I knew the existence of as it was of great importance even for the Universe's Foundation itself.]

Everyone's attention was grabbed at that moment before she continued. [I called it the Chaos Origin Source. As you know, Divine Origin Energy is necessary to cultivate past the Space Bending Realm, right? You need to convert normal Divine Energy to get it. Well, why do you think Divine Energy became like that?]

Roan pondered for a moment and gave it a shot. "From what you said, Divine Energy is probably born or created in this Chaos Origin Source location. But as it comes out and spreads through the Universe, it loses its effect somehow, becoming those lower types of energy force. Is it a flaw of the Universe?"

[It's not a flaw,] Sister Orb immediately denied. [It was a natural occurrence that allowed life to be born in the Universe. You see, the Chaos Origin Source is extremely rich in Divine Origin Energy. However, it is mixed with all the elements and the elements themselves can't be distinguished in the middle.]

[Let me ask you a question. You know that Divine Origin Energy is necessary for you to cultivate a higher realm, but do you think it is a good type of energy for life?]

Rean was the first to shake his head. "It's too powerful. I understood it when I began to convert it from Divine Energy. Thanks to our bodies, Roan and I could have sustained this type of energy one or two realms prior. However, it makes sense that only the Space Bending Realm being can convert it. Their bodies and souls wouldn't be strong enough to resist this force."

Sister Orb would have smiled if she wasn't an Orb. [Good! That's exactly the point. It's thanks to this loss in power that living beings can come into form. It also has its variants, Divine Energy being one of them. Here in the Underworld, you have Devilish Energy. In Heaven, you have Angelic Energy. Of course, it's not like one is evil and the other is good. It's just a name that you all gave to each variant of the Divine Origin Energy.]

Celis understood. "Be it Devilish Energy, Angelic Energy, or Divine Energy, we all began to convert those energies into Divine Origin Energy after we reached the Space Bending Realm. After all, they came from the same source. That's what I've been doing in both realms so far, and I didn't see a difference in the end result."

[Yeap, that's correct. Anyway, going into the Mortal Realm, the Divine Origin Energy loses even more of its power, becoming nothing more than Spiritual Energy. It's so weak that one cannot cultivate past the Transition Realm with it. Nonetheless, the Mortal Realm has countless more living beings than the Realm of Gods, Angel Realm, and Underworld. It is because the energy is very gentle, so life thrives there.]

[Of course, I'm not counting the dead souls that arrive at the Underworld. In that case, they come from literally everywhere but are sent back once the reincarnation process starts.]

"That also explains why everyone born in the Realm of Gods is already at the Foundation Realm," Gem added. He already considered such things in the past, and everyone in the Vruve Organization understood it. "To be honest, pretty much all the top experts of the Realm of Gods, Underworld, and Angel Realm thought about this possibility. That our cultivation energies come from somewhere, a source. It's just that no one was ever able to find it before."

He then looked at Sister Orb. "They were quite a few that also believed that the secret to cultivating beyond the Divinity Realm could be found in this so-called source. Still, since it was never found, most shifted their attention to the Foundation Pillar of the Universe. After all, they all know where it is even though no one can get close to it. It is a lot better than a flitting idea of a source that no one could prove the existence."

[Well, whether you could cultivate beyond the Divinity Realm or not, I don't know. However, the source does exist, and it is full of Divine Origin Energy. It makes any rank of Divine Stones look nothing more than trash. I'm talking about it because you asked if there wasn't anything I could help with at all. I just so happen to know where this source is located.]

How could they not know what that meant? Their cultivation speed would skyrocket if they could access that place. It is already ridiculously fast compared to others due to the system. Once they got there, no conversion would be needed anymore. Just how good would it be?

"Where is it then? Can we access this place, this Chaos Origin Source?" Celis, obviously, was the most excited one.

[You can... and you can not. That's because the Chaos Origin Source is not exactly a location. No, that's not correct. It is a location, but not a location that you can perceive even though you are there.] Everyone got puzzled when they heard that. Still, they knew Sister Orb would continue to explain, so they just waited. [The Chaos Origin Source is a different plane of existence that overlaps itself with the Universe Foundation Pillar's location.]

"A different plane? You mean a Dimensional Realm?" Luan asked that, but he didn't think he was right.

Sister Orb confirmed his suspicions. [No, that's different. A Dimensional Realm is still part of the same plane. So much so that everyone can enter and leave Dimensional Realms all the time. It's to the point that Pocket Dimensional Realms are used freely. The Chaos Origin Source plane is connected to our Universe, like a second layer of a cake. They are the same cake but separated. If you can bring us to the Universe Foundation's Location, I have a way to get us inside this plane.]

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Chapter 2056: They Need That Fragment

Gem narrowed his eyes, the weight of their task bearing down on him. "That's not something that can be done at the moment," he said, shaking his head. "As you know, even the most skilled experts in the Divinity Realm can't get close to the Foundation Pillar, let alone us."

Sister Orb, the ever-optimistic AI, chimed in. [I didn't say we have to reach the Pillar itself. You just need to get to its location. As long as we're within range, we'll be able to enter the Chaos Energy Source.]

Sesame's brow furrowed. "But Master, even getting close to it would require cultivation at the Space-Time Realm."

Gem nodded, his lips pursed in contemplation. "I know. But if it's possible, it's worth a try."

Sister Orb interjected, [Yes, getting near the Pillar is enough. With how massive it is, any place where you can at least see it should be more or less sufficient. The Space-Time Realm should be the right realm to resist the force there.]

Despite their optimistic plans, Rean, Roan, and the others were still uncertain. "That's all well and good, but we don't even know where this Foundation Pillar is located."

Gem gave them a small smile. "That's not an issue. In the Space-Time Realm, one can finally break through the atmosphere of the Realm of Gods, Underworld, or Heaven. If you can do that, going to the location of the Foundation Pillar will be a walk in the park. You'll be able to feel its presence straight away."

Sesame added, "And that's why being in the Space-Time Realm is crucial. If you're not in a sealed place like this Swamp of No Return, you'll be able to open Spatial Gates to travel vast distances. You'll need this ability if you want to reach the Foundation Pillar's location."

"I see..." Roan pondered for a bit. "But there is a problem. With how important this Foundation Pillar is, wouldn't it be heavily guarded? After all, the experts of the Cultivation World believe that the secret to going beyond the Divinity Realm is located there, right?"

"That would be very difficult," Gem immediately dismissed the idea. "The Foundation Pillar is truly massive, not to mention it is located in the gap between the two sides of the Universe. Why do you think the experts on this side of the Universe can't get to your side? Because of the Pillar itself. To be able to keep an eye on the entire thing would be ridiculously hard, not to mention expensive. You would need countless formations, resources, knowledge, and others."

Sesame, who was also in the Divinity Realm, agreed with Gem. "To be honest, I don't think a single realm alone would be able to do it either. I think you would need an alliance of the Underworld, Realm of Gods, and Heaven to get enough beings to take on such a task. And you would need to trust each

other for that. It doesn't matter how I see this. It truly gets close to the true meaning of the word impossible. The three main realms would never do that."

Naturally, that made the twins' group happy. "That's good news. Then, once we get to the Space-Time Realm, we can pay it a visit."

[Alright, then it is decided,] Sister Orb was happy they agreed to that plan.

Of course, Roan still wanted to know. "So, how exactly will you get us inside this alternative plane?"

[There's no point talking about it now. You are just too far away from the Space-Time Realm. Besides, it is not something easy to explain either. It involves certain conjectures that are just too abstract for you guys to understand without experiencing it,] Sister Orb replied.

Rean shrugged his shoulders. "Translating what she said, Sister Orb simply has no idea how it works. It just works because she was the Universe Sentience."

Everyone nodded. "Yeah, that's most likely the truth."

[Fuck you! You know what? No more Chaos Origin Source for any of you. Go get your asses wiped and cultivate like everyone else,] Sister Orb exclaimed.

Rean quickly took his words back. "It's a joke, a joke! Someone as magnanimous and calm as the Great Sister Orb would never take it to heart, right?"

"I guess you are right," Sister Orb was easily placated.

Finally, Sister Orb brought Soul Gem's projection over the Orb again before saying, [Alright, I told you everything I had to. I truly know nothing else of value, so there is no point in asking for anything else. If you need me, just call me as always.] The Soul Gem Orb then stopped shining while it kept floating in the middle of the room with Gem on top of it.

Gem couldn't help but sigh. "I feel like I lost a thousand years of life." Still, he was the one running out of time. "Anyway, do you have anything else you want to ask me? I can still stay awake for a while, but the sooner I go back to sleep, the sooner I can recover."

Rean looked at Roan and the others, but it didn't seem like they had anything else to ask. However, Celis suddenly remembered something. "Oh, right! Unlike Sister Orb, you didn't get your memories sealed. In that case, you should know quite a few secrets that we can make use of. You were the leader of the biggest organization in the Universe back then, after all."

Gem didn't agree with that, saying, "It will be useless. The reason is pretty simple: if there is anything that could be used now, my old companions and the Vruve organization have already taken it away. If it can't be taken, it is definitely well-guarded. Besides, it's like Sister Orb mentioned, it has been too long! Most of the things I knew before creating the system have long since ceased to exist."

Celis felt disappointed but didn't insist. Rean and Roan looked at each other and shook their heads. They had already asked what they wanted. "Well, then that's it. Is it possible to wake you up if we need you at least?"

"Yes," Soul Gem nodded. "However, try to refrain from doing so. The process of awakening my soul from its hibernating state costs too much. I would rather not have to do so. Still, if you truly need to ask for something at any cost, you can use the system to do that. I will leave an option in the system for you to select in that case."

"That's good to hear." The twins' group nodded.

Yet, there was still something else to discuss. "Alright, enough talk about the past. Gem, Sesame, can we get the Universe Foundation Fragment in this place?"

Sure enough, the main objective hadn't changed. They needed that fragment.

Death... and me

Chapter 2057: Until they appeared

In fact, even Gem was a little puzzled about the situation. "That's true. Sesame, as I said, you can't leave this place. However, why is there a fragment of the Foundation Pillar here? Also, what is happening with this messed up space-time around this place?"

However, Roan was more thorough. "First, isn't it better to tell us what this place is exactly? As far as I know, this is not the kind of environment you would find in the Underworld. Lush forests? Brimming life? Above all, this place seems to be sealed by that wall."

Gem knew something about it. "I could tell you what I know, but my knowledge of this place is from a long time ago. It's better if Sesame explains to you all and then continues with the answer to my question next."

Sesame already expected that, so he began to recount what he was aware of. "First, the part that my Master Gem knows. Roan is right to say that this isn't the kind of environment you would find in the Underworld. That's because this area wasn't part of the Underworld to start with. Instead, due to a war a long time ago, this place fell from the Realm of Gods and ended here in the Underworld."

"Fell from the Realm of Gods?" Those words surprised Rean and Roan's group. "Is that even possible?"

Gem nodded as it was part of what he already knew. "It is. To be more specific, some were the aftermath of battles between my Vruve Organization and Tiana's Wafrol Forces. Others happened due to fights between other forces. Some were simply natural cataclysms. Things like that, you know?" One must remember that before Tiana took over the Vruve Organization, her organization went by the name of Wafrol.

Sesame agreed with Gem and continued. "He is right. In truth, you can find a few more places like this one in all three higher realms. From what I know, it seems that the Northeast side of the Center of the Realm of Gods was taken by the Underworld Forces, right?"

The twins' group nodded and waited for Sesame to continue. "One of the reasons they selected that part wasn't just because the Temporal Path Entrance was there. There are more exists of the Temporal Path, after all. It's just that since the Underworld has control over it, the other entrances are sealed, so only their entrance at the Realm of Gods works."

"Anyway, another reason for them to select the Northeast side when they attacked the Realm of Gods was that you can find a small piece of the Underworld there. The natural Dark Element Environment of that area served as the initial source to enlarge that kind of environment in the rest of the Northeast side in the center of the Realm of Gods."

"Naturally, you can find similar places in Heaven as well. It's just that usually, these separated pieces of other Higher Realms are tightly guarded by the experts of each realm. If you don't have a high position in the hierarchy of a higher realm, you probably won't hear about them during your entire life."

The twins' group had to admit it made sense. They, indeed, had never heard about these pockets of land from other realms in the Realm of Gods.

Sesame continued. "So, that's how this place ended in the Underworld. Back then, this was an important area of the Realm of Gods. As you can possibly imagine, the Vuvre Organization was the one controlling it, and the Wafrol Forces wanted to take it. Another one of the many wars between our organizations started, and through the use of a special formation, the Wafrol forces disconnected this place from the Realm of Gods. This place ended up falling inside the Underworld and has been here ever since."

"What was important about this place?" Luan asked back.

Gem was the one to answer it. "Some of our facilities of research were located here. The environment was perfect for carrying out tests with formations, weapons, and things like that. Truly a difficult place to find in the Realm of Gods. I still find it a pity that it ended in the Underworld."

Sesame sighed in response. "Indeed. Too bad that once it was sent to the Underworld, it lost all its value. The good thing about the environment of this place was that it was like it because of its location in the Realm of Gods. Here in the Underworld, this is truly just a piece of a small land in a place where it shouldn't be. It has lost any value as a testing ground. After all, the Underworld is filled with Devilish Energy, not Divine Energy."

"They might be variations of the same Divine Origin Energy but are still different," Gem added.

Sesame recalled the past. "Because of how great this land was, it also gave birth to many species. In a stroke of fate, it ended up giving birth to me, a Pixiu. Of course, I was born way before the battle for this

place happened. I'm just telling you that to show how good it was. The requirements for a Pixiu to be born are ridiculously complicated." As a Pixiu himself, Sesame obviously understood it.

"That's also the reason why I'm bound to this place," he lamented. "It's not wrong to say that my very existence is partially due to it. If I leave, I won't survive for more than a century. It's like you suddenly started to pull out the blood from my body until it dried completely, ending in my death. Even within the Pixiu race, such a situation is very rare. Most Pixius are born from Heaven and Earth but are free to roam around. I am not."

Sesame didn't dwell on it for long, though. "Well, leaving it aside, when the Vruve Organization came to this place for the first time, I had been captured and forced to use my abilities against my will. That is, until Gem and his Vruve Organization finally appeared."

Death... and me

Chapter 2058: Crashed

"Let me guess, he saved you, and you decided to accept Gem as your master," Roan suddenly intervened.

"Hahaha!" Gem couldn't help but laugh out loud. "Not at all. The first thing Sesame did when I set him free was to gather the power of this land and attack me and my group. That was truly a scary moment."

Sesame couldn't help but feel a little embarrassed when he heard that. "Can you blame me? Everyone only cared about my Pixiu Race's abilities and wanted to use me. After you set me free, the first thing I thought was that you wanted to use me as well."

Gem shrugged his shoulders. "Hey, I do think your abilities are very useful. You weren't wrong there. I just never had any intention of forcing anyone to do something they didn't want to."

Sesame brushed the situation aside. "Ahem, let's forget about that part, shall we. In any case, a lot of things happened, and I got to trust Gem before taking him as my master. I even reached the Divinity Realm, thanks to his help. At this level, if I wanted to flee, no one would be able to stop me. Still, Gem never showed any signs of using me, so I stayed. I'm very thankful to him."

Sesame didn't stop. "So, after this land fell into the Underworld, I was obviously forced to come with it. Because it was a facility of the old Vruve Organization, it was very well protected. That wall you passed through when I received you was built by them while I was given full control over it."

"This is your home, your land, and your life. It's only natural that I gave you the ultimate control over all the formations in this place in exchange for the use of the environment." Gem nodded as if he was simply stating a fact.

Sesame smiled and kept talking. "Gem then stroke a deal with the forces of the Underworld. This place might have lost its value to be a research facility for the Vruve Organization, but he wouldn't just let the Devils attack and destroy everything. The Vruve Organization was, together with the Wafrol Forces, one of the strongest organizations in the three higher realms. They also had some Elder Devils within their ranks, so it wasn't hard to set this process."

"Nonetheless, this is the Underworld. No more Divine Energy was generated in this place. All that could be done was to use the formations set up by the Vruve Organization to keep the Devilish Energy out. Gem was the one who helped me to modify them to use the Divilish Energy itself to keep Devilish Energy out."

"It wasn't a big deal," Gem didn't mind. "We got everything done in just a few years after the situation stabilized. For us cultivators, a few years are nothing more than a blink of an eye. Not to mention that you learned how to use, build, and repair these formations yourself, so you would eventually succeed in changing them on your own."

Sesame nodded. "Anyway, that's why you can't feel any Divine Energy whatsoever, yet the plants here continue to live normally. All their Spirituality was gone with the lack of Divine Energy, but most could live without it anyway. The same went for the humans and other living beings in the area. Just like any other place in the Realm of Gods, you will find those settlements with low-level cultivators and things like that."

"The only difference is that the people and demon beasts here can't even cultivate. Most of them have completely forgotten that it was even possible after so long. I also didn't show them how to do it since there wasn't Divine Energy anyway. Well, I don't think the people outside are unhappy. If anything, due to the lack of danger, people here have been living calm lives for many generations. I just make sure to keep their count the same."

"No overpopulation, right?" Roan could imagine the reason.

Sesame nodded. "That's correct. This area is very big, but if you let humans procreate as they wish, they will eventually consume all the resources in this place. At my level, targeting the women's ovaries and sealing them with my Spatial Power is an extremely effortless task. Of course, I only do it after they get two children of their own. If they never do it, I never intervene. For them, it has become a natural occurrence that all women can only have two children."

Rean couldn't help but think. 'Sesame would make a fortune back on Earth with this anti conceptional ability of his...'

Sesame felt it funny when he explained it himself. "Ahem, as a result, you could say that the humans in this village enjoy quite a lot of, you know, reproduction with no reproduction actions. No risk of ever getting more than two children, after all."

Roan only saw the part that mattered, as always. "It is a well-thought system. Very efficient."

Sesame also mentioned the other races. "As for the demon beasts, they are not intelligent since they can't cultivate to reach that level. They keep the balance of their own population naturally."

"Alright, we understand that it might as well be considered a small paradise. But let's go back to the task at hand. What about the Universe Fragment?" Gem obviously didn't forget his first question, especially since that was part of the history that he didn't know.

Sesame nodded. "I was just as surprised as you were, Gem. Thanks to the deal you did with the Elder Devils of the Underworld, this place was left alone, especially since we let the Elder Devils come from time to time to confirm that we weren't doing anything out of the ordinary here. There was also the swamp around this place, so not many Devils came to bother us anyway."

"However, everything changed the day your Vruve Organization targeted the Extinction Sphere. That day, something that seemed like a meteor crashed at the very center of this region."

Death... and me

Chapter 2059: What About You?

It wasn't very hard to imagine what exactly crashed in this place. "Was it the Universe Foundation Pillar Fragment?"

Sesame shrugged his shoulders. "I think so. I only thought about this possibility after hearing all your stories and explanations. Don't forget that this place is pretty much isolated from the outside world. You were also the first group to ever appear here since the day that thing crashed in the center."

"That makes sense," Roan agreed with him. "Before the Extinction Sphere got destroyed, there were no such things as Foundation Fragments. It would be weird if you knew that what you got here was the fragment since you got trapped here since then."

Sesame nodded. "I didn't take it as a bad thing, though. At my level, and especially due to the connection between me and this land, I could tell that we got somewhat separated from the rest of the Underworld. I didn't receive any messages from Gem or his subordinates anymore either. That said, it might have been for the best that we got into this situation. The humans here don't know about the outside world anymore. As for the Devil and the Vruve, they can't get close to this place. We got quite lucky if you ask me."

Rean sighed in response. "Sigh... Still, we will need to take this fragment of yours. Gem's system already confirmed it is a fragment, so we can't leave it here. But now that you said it, I don't know what will happen to this place once we leave with the fragment. After all, we are pretty sure that the Swamp of No Return spatial abilities will disappear with the fragment's removal."

The others went silent after hearing Rean's words. Indeed, taking the fragment away also meant getting rid of the only thing that kept this place safe from the Underworld Experts. The deal that was struck with Gem all those years ago won't be of any use now.

Sesame pondered a bit as he looked back at everyone. After a few moments of consideration, he got his resolve sorted. "Don't worry. Just go there and take the fragment away."

Gem was surprised by the sudden decision. "Are you sure? That will also mean that this place will be invaded by the Elder Devils once they notice the Swamp's abilities disappeared."

Sasema was resolute, though. "I'm certain. If you don't get the fragments back together, this Universe won't last much longer. If that happens, absolutely nowhere will be safe. Let alone us. All lives will perish, isn't that correct?"

Gem confirmed. "Yes, that is an absolute outcome. Even Sister Orb can tell you the same if she is still hearing."

[Of course, I'm still hearing! And yes, I might have my memories sealed, but I can guarantee that Gem isn't wrong about this part. Not that I care anyway.] Sure enough, Sister Orb had never stopped hearing the conversation.

With Sister Orb's words, Sesame was even more confident. "Then that's decided. You must take the fragment away. If anything, it will release everyone trapped in the Swamp too. You have a few friends in there, right? It isn't all that bad."

Naturally, the twins mentioned the Lakures they found after entering the Swamp.

"Very well," Roan didn't bite around the bush. "Let's go there and take it. Since Sesame is this confident, we can only trust him."

Yet, Sesame also had a request. "Just one thing! I wish you could take the humans in this settlement away and find a place for them in the Realm of Gods."

Rean and Roan looked at each other and nodded. "That isn't much of a trouble. However, we can't guarantee their safety either. The powers in the Realm of Gods are also after us due to Rean's knowledge about formations. Chances are low, but if we are discovered, it might implicate these people. Not to mention that they don't know anything about the outside world."

Sesame didn't mind. "It's fine. They have been having a great time for many generations, but it isn't as if they never wanted to know what was outside. I'll use my authority and Divine Sense to tell them everything about the outside world. From there, they will have to rely on themselves. As for the Demon Beasts, there is no need to care about them. From what you told me, your Dimensional Realm is always in need of Demon Beasts for its territories, right? Just add them all."

Rean narrowed his eyes. "That definitely would be good. We have too much space and not enough Demon Beasts. Still, this place is several times bigger than our Dimensional Realm. I don't know if the remaining space we have will be enough for all the Demon Beasts here. After all, Demon Beasts, especially the not-intelligent ones, are very territorial. Also, the Demon Beasts here are all Stage Two Demon Beasts since they couldn't cultivate. They were born at this level but couldn't improve. Chances are most of them will be massacred in our Dimensional Realm by the ones there."

"That's the good thing about Demon Beasts," Sesame didn't seem to find it a problem. "To Demon Beasts, this is just the natural order. You lose, or you win. If you are weak, then it is just right that you die."

Kentucky and Celis couldn't agree more. "He is correct. Besides, that's the type of system I built inside your Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. We Demon Beasts prefer that way."

Rean knew that he had no more excuses. "Well, if you all think like this, Roan and I obviously have no trouble."

Roan nodded. "Just make sure to gather all the Demon Beasts since this place is too big. We will send them all inside the forests, deserts, and seas of our Dimensional Realm. From there, they can do whatever they want."

Sesame was obviously satisfied. "Great! If we left the Demon Beasts here, they would all be slaughtered for their souls, after all." One must not forget that Living Beings Souls are extremely valuable in the Underworld.

"Alright! Just one last question before focusing on the fragment. Sesame, what about you?" Gem didn't forget the most important issue in his opinion.

Death... and me

Chapter 2060: There! You! GO!

"There is no need to worry about me," Sesame immediately stopped them. "I'm at the Divinity Realm, just like the Elder Devils of this Underworld. Besides, I have an advantage that they don't have. I might not be able to leave this place because of my connection with it. But at the same time, I'm pretty much one with this environment. If I decide to hide here, no Elder Devil, Archangel, or Divinity Realm being can hope to find me."

Gem nodded. "Besides, it is not like Sesame can't leave at all. As long as he doesn't stay too long outside, he can take some trips around. At the Divinity Realm, Sesame can very well travel a good amount of places in the Underworld and still be back before his 100 years are up. He just can't leave the Underworld since it would completely sever his connection with this land."

The twins' group was obviously satisfied with that. "Alright, then it is decided. Let's go and take the fragment away."

However, Sesame still hasn't finished talking. "Not so fast. I did indeed say you could take the fragment away. But there is a small problem."

Roan faintly smiled when he heard that. "I thought you would never mention."

Rean looked at him with a puzzled expression. "What are you talking about?"

"Isn't that obvious?" Roan was surprised that the others hadn't noticed it yet, though. "The fragment fell in the center of this land and created this Space-Time effect that kept everyone out. That said, why hasn't Sesame taken it for himself yet?"

Sure enough, everyone's eyes turned in Sesame's direction. Considering the power of the fragment, it would definitely be a great addition to Sesame's power.

Sesame didn't deny it. "Roan is right. I tried to go there and take this fragment you mentioned. Unfortunately, it was impossible for me to do so. And let's not forget that I'm really strong in this land."

"Why is that?" Everyone immediately asked back.

Swup!

Instead of answering, Sesame waved his paw in the air. Right after, space was torn apart, revealing a spatial gate. "It will be faster if I show it to you first."

The twins' group had traveled like that before with the help of the Light Devil Clan, so they didn't ask anything. Sesame just grabbed them with his own spatial powers and entered the gate with everyone. Even without Divine Energy, nothing inside the dangerous environment of the fabric of space could reach their group.

Shuu!

Another spatial gate appeared near the center of the land, quickly revealing a black cat and several other figures. Sesame and the twins' group then landed on the top of a high hill, right in front of what seemed to be a giant sphere of silver and golden light.

Everyone was surprised with what they saw, but not as much as Luan. "So much Spatial Power!" In his elemental eyes, that Sphere of light was pretty much a sun. It was even hard to look at it directly. "If we get anywhere near it, we will be destroyed all the way down to our cells in an instant!"

Sesame knew what Luan was talking about. "You are correct. Even with my powers, I wasn't able to get anywhere near that thing, let alone take this so-called fragment from the inside. At the very least, I can't tell what is hidden inside that Sphere over there. Sure, I can get a lot closer to it than where we are now if I go alone, but I still can't approach it for real. As for you, this hill is as far as you can go without being affected by it with your cultivations."

Sesame continued. "The silver light is obviously a side effect of Spatial Power. As for the golden light, that is the time effect." Sesame then raised his paw and gathered Spatial Laws over it. Silver light shined there for everyone to see. "At my level, it is easy for me to make Spatial Power visible to the naked eye. However, time is in an absolutely different league. If I had access to Divine Origin Energy and used all my strength, I might be able to gather a tiny amount of Time Laws. Still, it wouldn't be enough to make it visible like what you can see in that Sphere over there."

Indeed. The Sphere was pretty much made of half Silver Light and half Golden Light. That was an amount of concentrated Time Laws that most likely no one would be able to gather.

Sesame then looked back at everyone. "I hope you have some plan to deal with it because I definitely don't have one. Trust me, I tried it countless times until I finally gave up."

Rean narrowed his eyes in response. "Sesame is also stronger just for being in this place, but he is still helpless against that Sphere. We definitely have no chance against that thing."

Gem was quite puzzled, though. "Something doesn't seem right. Why is this fragment affecting the space outside the walls of Sesame's Land but not this land itself? If anything, the effects were supposed to be several times higher inside this land than anywhere else in the Swamp of no Return."

Luan immediately answered that, as he could see much more with his eyes. "You were wrong. You can't see it, but I can. This Sphere generates some kind of 'no-touch' zone. I'm not talking about the Silver and Golden Light you can see. Instead, I'm talking about the zone between it and the outside walls. The Swamp of No Return abilities is somewhat of a side effect of Space and Time being messed up by this Sphere's presence. As soon as you take this Sphere away, everything will return to normal... or so I think."

Gem couldn't help but feel surprised by Luan. "Not only your eyes, but your head is quite good, kid. Roan did a great job with you."

Luan scratched the back of his head with a smile. "Thanks."

However, Roan himself was thinking about something else. Suddenly, he called Sister Orb. "Sister Orb, can you come out a little?"

[Uh? Sure...] Immediately, the Light and Dark Orb appeared outside, feeling puzzled.

Grab!

Right after, Roan took it and made a pitcher baseball pose with Sister Orb in his hand. "There! You! GO!"

Vup!

Sure enough, using all his Starlight Body and Soul Origin Energy, he threw Sister Orb in the Silver and Golden Light's direction, much to everyone's shock!

"What the hell?!"

People could only hear some cursing from the ray of white and dark light in the distance. [Fuck
youuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu.....!!!!]