

Death 2061

Death... and me

Chapter 2061: Time Power!

Everyone looked at Roan without knowing what to say. Wasn't that going to destroy the Soul Gem Orb? If that happens, how will they fix the Universe? "Did you hate Sister Orb that much?"

Roan looked at them as if he was looking at idiots. "Isn't that obvious?"

Being connected to the twins through the soul threads, Sister Orb obviously heard his answer. [Go to hell!]

"I'm here already," Roan answered as a matter of fact.

Sister Orb wanted to complain more, but there wasn't time for that. She quickly approached the Silver and Golden Light Space-Time field. For a moment, she thought about using her control over the Soul Gem Orb to stop and fly back to where the twins' group was located. However, although Roan said what he did, she knew Roan never did any meaningless actions, especially one that could hinder his objectives.

Swup!

Sure enough, something different happened as soon as she got close to the Silver and Golden Light range. Instead of the Space-Time Power tearing the Soul Gem Orb apart, the field instead opened for her to pass. It was as if the Space-Time power around Sister Orb didn't dare to touch her. [Oh! I see it now!]

Sister Orb then stabilized herself instead of using Roan's throw momentum. From there, she kept floating in the direction of the Universe Fragment in the center as all the Spatial Tears and Golden Time movements cleaned away.

Seeing that, Rean finally understood as well. "Right! I'm such an idiot. How didn't I notice it?"

"Because you are an idiot. You said it yourself," Roan added.

Rean's mouth twitched a little but didn't rebuke.

The others, on the other hand, were curious about what was happening. "So, can you explain why the Space-Time Field isn't affecting Sister Orb?"

"It's quite simple, in fact." Rean began to explain. "The Spatial Power generated by the Universe Fragment. I couldn't feel it while we were outside of the wall since the Spatial Power there is just being manipulated. However, this one is truly being generated by the Fragment itself."

Rean then pointed at the Golden and Silver Light field. "Kentucky, Celis, Luan, and Gem should be able to feel it. The Spatial Power around the Fragment is exactly the same used to keep the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. The only difference is that this one is being used haphazardly while the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm is fine-controlled. Nonetheless, they are truly the same."

Indeed, Kentucky and the others tried to focus on the characteristics of the Space-Time Field and could tell that although they were being used differently, they were definitely the same.

Rean continued. "The Soul Gem Dimensional Realm exists because of the Soul Gem Orb. It will never harm the Soul Gem Orb. Since that's the case, it is just right that the Fragment's Spatial Power won't harm Sister Orb either."

[Rean is correct. I'm totally fine inside this place. If anything, it's quite comfortable.] Sister Orb added from within the Space-Time field.

Still, Sesame couldn't help but ask. "So, the Spatial Power is the same as the one used by the Soul Gem Orb. But what about the Time power? Does the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm also have Time Power? Is that why the Time Golden Light isn't trying anything against the Soul Gem Orb?"

Roan shook his head. "I don't know. I only bet in the Spatial Power, not the time one."

"This..." Everyone was speechless.

[Hey, hey, hey! Then what if it tried to act against me?] Sister Orb obviously heard that as well.

Roan shrugged his shoulders. "Spatial Power is the only destructive energy within that field, isn't it? If the Time Golden Light tried to act against you, all it would be able to do is accelerate or slow down the time you are experiencing. Perhaps the worst case would be that it would stop the time completely, and you would be stuck. Nonetheless, it wouldn't cause harm to you."

[Were you sure about that?] Sister Orb had her doubts about Roan's words.

"None whatsoever." Roan didn't hide his thoughts as always.

[Fuck you!]

Rean sighed in relief, seeing that Sister Orb could move safely inside the Silver and Golden Light Field. "Alright, Sister Orb, go get the Fragment. It will be the first Fragment that you will get, so at least no one can say you are useless anymore."

[Was that supposed to be a compliment?] Sister Orb was feeling more and more like just giving up altogether.

Luan knew better not to meddle in the twins and Sister Orb's bickerings, so he just changed the topic. "Ahem... Father, Uncle Rean, since the Spatial Power in that field is the same as the Soul Gem Orb's, wouldn't the time Power also be the same?"

Roan looked at Luan, knowing he had thought something. "Where are you trying to go?"

Luan nodded before explaining, "Look at how the Golden Light of Time gives way, just like the Silver Light of Space. Suppose the Spatial Power in that field is doing that really because it is the same as the Soul Gem Orb. In that case, it is plausible to think that the Soul Gem Orb also has Time-related powers. Not only that, it is the same as the Fragment's Time Power."

Roan and the others fell into deep thought. "That sure makes sense. Still, we have never seen any Time-Related upgrades in the Soul Gem System Reward List. The Soul Gem Dimensional Realm's time also moves at the same rate as the outside time."

It was then that Roan noticed the issue with his words. "Right! It moves just like the outside!"

Luan smiled in response. "Exactly, Father. The time here in the Swamp of no Return keeps fluctuating. We know it moves a lot faster, but it changes how much faster it is without stopping; very erratic. Still, the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm matches the outside time oscillations perfectly. What does that mean? It means the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, or the Soul Gem Orb, to be more specific, does have time power!"

Death... and me

Chapter 2062: Joining Back Together

As a separate dimension, the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm should move at a different speed than the Swamp. At the very least, there should be some discrepancies. Yet, the twins' group never felt any difference. It shouldn't be possible to achieve this result without being able to control the flow of time inside.

Gem looked at them and nodded. "That makes sense. Surprisingly, even I didn't notice it in the past. Well, I spent most of my time hibernating, so that makes sense. What about you, Sister Orb? Did you know about it?"

Sister Orb, who was approaching the Foundation Fragment, didn't seem to be aware of it. [Not really. But that's most likely because I have my memories sealed. I myself don't know what the extents of the Control Orb's abilities are.]

Before they could continue this discussion, Sister Orb finally saw something. The Silver and Golden Light parted ways, revealing what seemed to be a small fragment of white and dark colors shining. [Oh, there you are!]

Sister Orb didn't have to do much. She simply opened a small aperture between the outside world and the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Immediately, the fragment outside felt the presence of the fused fragments and shot like a bullet into the aperture.

Inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, the fragment smashed into the bigger fragment. One must remember that the previous fragments fused together before. Now, this fragment was doing the same thing. The two fragments melted into a white and dark liquid that revolved for a few moments. Finally, they took the form of an even bigger fragment before they settled down inside the Dimensional Realm once again.

Outside, the Silver and Golden lights of space and time began to dissipate at high speeds. The tears in space slowed closed as time began to flow at the same time as the surroundings.

However, that wasn't all. As these lights disappeared, the entire land began to tremble. No, to be more specific, the entire Swamp of No Return began to pass through an earthquake.

"What is happening?" Naturally, everyone was surprised by that change. Yet, it wasn't like they couldn't guess the reason.

"The Swamp of no Return had been in a separated environment for too long. Now that time and space lost their support, it is being forcefully integrated back into the Underworld Environment," Sesame guessed.

He was right. Being in a separated environment for too long more or less cut some of the connection between this land and the rest of the Underworld. Above all, the Underworld Laws couldn't act as they should since a fragment of the Universe's Foundation was here. The Universe Foundation is above everything, including the laws of a higher realm.

Outside, the formation that kept the Swamp of No Return from expanding further also began to get affected. Back when the twins arrived at the Swamp, the Light Devil Clan leader told them that the formation was built due to how fast the Swamp was swelling everything. Since then, the formation has been in place for countless years. It was even older than himself. Now, however, it seemed to be on the verge of breaking.

As mentioned before, the Dark Element in the Swamp of No Return was several times more concentrated than outside. It was held inside the Swamp thanks to the Spatial Abilities set in place. Now, the support that kept the space that way is gone, so the Dark Element couldn't be kept like that anymore.

It began to try to escape through all sides. Yet, the formation that kept the Swamp from Expanding was blocking it. Little by little, the gigantic formation that encompassed the entire Swamp of no Return started to swell like a balloon!

The Devils weren't idiots. Although the Swamp had been in a state of calm for so long with the help of the formation, all main power kept several scouts around it, just in case. It had always been seen as a calamity that could destroy a huge part of the Underworld if not kept in check, after all.

"Quick, quick! Use the Thoughts Transmission Talisman to warn the Elders!" One of the scouts on the borders of the Swamp panicked as he ordered his subordinates to contact his superiors.

Everywhere around the Swamp's borders where scouts of the Elder Devils could be found was in chaos. Yet, they didn't have time to think about it. The formation was swelling, but it was still a formation that kept the Swamp in check for that long. It was growing bigger, but it didn't want to give up. Thanks to that, it was swelling more and more, forcing the scouts to flee for their lives.

In the Settlement inside the Swamp, Luman and the other Lakure Race members, as well as the devils living there, obviously noticed the changes. Luman naturally was the one with the most perception of the environment as he was in the Late Stage of the Space-Time Realm. "Space is changing... and the time... the time is swelling down..." For some reason, the picture of the twins surfaced in his mind. "Could it have something to do with them?"

He quickly came out of his house and looked up to the sky... Well, there wasn't supposed to be a sky to see inside the Swamp of No Return. Everything was always pitch black. Yet, Luman could tell that the darkness was disappearing little by little. "The swamp is joining back with the Underworld!" Sure enough, it didn't take long for him to understand what was happening.

Without wasting time, he immediately grabbed all the Lakure Race members of his Settlement and stuffed them inside his Pocket Dimensional Realm. "Once it joins the Underworld, elder Devils from all over the Underworld will come to this place. I need to get away as fast as possible." As for the Devils in his Settlement, he had no intention of taking them with him. As Devils, they had no need to get away from that place. They could take care of themselves.

Death... and me

Chapter 2063: Aftermath

As one can imagine, the elder Devils of the various main powers of the Underworld received the messages. The Underworld immediately fell into chaos as several leaders of the higher realm rushed to the Swamp's locations.

As several Spatial Gates were being opened by the Devils from all regions, the twins' group was still experiencing everything from the inside. "Should we stay here much longer? I don't think the Swamp will stay quiet for much longer," said Roan with a dark expression.

Gem looked at Sesame before asking him directly. "Sesame, although you can't live out of this place forever, you should have no trouble leaving in it for a few hours or so. Use your strength to bring everyone away."

Sesame nodded. "No problem. However, we need to first gather everyone and bring them away. I wasn't expecting that you were going to take the fragment straight away, so I didn't gather the people and demon beasts living here."

Only now did Rean and the others remember that. "Right! How long will it take for you to get them to us?"

Sesame immediately opened a Spatial Gate and grabbed everyone before jumping into it. "Let's go back to my village first. I need to talk with the people there."

Somewhere else in the Swamp of no Return, there was an old Devil being served by several others with lower cultivation. Luman's settlement wasn't the only one created in this Swamp, obviously. This was one more of those. However, this settlement had one thing that others didn't. It was the only place in the Swamp of No Return that had an Elder Devil as a leader.

Rean and Roan's group had heard from the Light Devil clan that everyone gets lost in the Swamp of No Return, no exception. There was even an Elder Devil that never came back, and this was the one and the same. He had been here for countless years without being able to find a way out. He was Elder Devil Frulos Trus.

Frulos was even faster in noticing the changes in the Swamp of no Return, so he had already ordered everyone to gather close to him. Yet, he had no intention of taking that chance to escape the Swamp. Instead, he was planning to go to the Center. "Is everyone here?"

The subordinate on his side quickly shook his head. "We are not sure. We don't keep track of everyone since we have been here for too long. Perhaps there are a few that were far from the settlement."

Frulos shook his head. "Then they can go and try their luck on their own." Frulos then looked at the Devils gathered near him and announced. "I'm leaving now. However, since we have been together during all this time, I'll give you one chance. You can join my Trus Clan as I rebuild it in the Underworld. If you want it, I'll put you in my Dimensional Realm. If not, I'll simply leave you here."

Although Frulos seemed to care about them, everyone knew that it was not the case. After so long, they knew that Frulos' Clan probably disappeared already since they didn't have an Elder Devil in charge anymore. The Devils here have high-level cultivations, so they would make good subordinates.

Frulos only gave them one minute to decide. Devils normally don't trust each other, just like any cultivator in the Realm of Gods. That said, less than half of those Frulos asked decided to follow him. Frulos couldn't care less, though. With his cultivation as an Elder Devil, he knew he would be able to find more useful subordinates sooner or later. He quickly put those who decided to follow him inside his Pocket Dimensional Realm and disappeared inside a Spatial Gate.

His Spatial Gate obviously wasn't taking them outside of the Swamp. Even if he wanted to do that, it wouldn't work since the Devils' Formation around the Swamp was still working. It's just that it was swelling rapidly due to the Concentrated Dark Element trying to escape. Instead, Frulos could finally tell which direction the Center of the Swamp was located and immediately opened a path leading there.

Luman's group was different. The first thing Luman did was to bring everyone to the border of the Swamp of No Return. If this event that allowed them to move into the Swamp wasn't going to last, he definitely didn't want to be here when everyone inside got lost and trapped in the Swamp again. Of course, only Luman appeared, as everyone else was inside his Dimensional Realm. "This... So much Dark Element. This formation won't hold for much longer. Once it reaches its breaking point, the region around the Swamp will be struck by quite a calamity."

He was right. The Dark Element and energy trying to escape were building up even more pressure. The Swamp was enormous to start with, so one could imagine what an explosion of Dark Element and Devilish Energy caused by such a huge place would cause.

Meanwhile, Spatial Gates began to open around the border of the Swamp of No Return nonstop. The Elder Devils, obviously, gathered together to assess the situation. Rui was also there and looked at the Swamp in the Distance with a pensive expression. The Swamp's time was over twenty times faster, so it didn't really be that long since he parted ways with the twins at the Swamp's borders. A little more than a decade was all. 'Could it have something to do with those two?'

Meanwhile, back in the twins' location, Sesame used his Divine Sense to explain the whole situation to the humans of his village. "That's about it. I don't have time to answer your questions, so you will have to trust me. Rean and Roan's group will bring you all to the Realm of Gods. From there onwards, you will have to take care of yourselves." he quickly turned around, preparing to leave. "I need to gather the Demon Beasts, so you can talk to the twins' group while I arrange the rest." Finally, he left to grab all the Demon Beasts."

Gem looked at the humans of the village and didn't feel like dealing with it. "Alright, I'm going back to hibernation. Only call me if it is extremely necessary." Right after, he disappeared inside the Soul Gem Orb without a trace.

Rean sighed before paying attention to the curious and concerned eyes of the people around. "Well, I'm sending you all and your houses into the Dimensional Realm. Don't resist."

Vup, vup, vup, vup...

Just like that, all the humans disappeared as well.

Death... and me

Chapter 2064: No Artifact?

As Sesame gathered the Demon Beasts, Roan noticed that there was one thing that didn't match up. He used his soul connection with the Soul Gem Orb to ask about that. 'Sister Orb, there is one thing I don't understand. When we arrived here, the system told us that the fragment was inside an artifact capable of doing Space Displacement. However, the fragment you acquired was truly just a fragment.'

'Not only that, Sesame said he saw it falling in this place pretty much right after the Universe was Divided in two. There is no way someone had the time to transform it into an artifact, right? Was the system wrong?' Roan was right. The system did say the fragment in this place was an artifact.

[Hum... now that you said, it is weird indeed. The fragment we acquired was definitely the reason why the Swamp of No Return had its Space and Time Displacement ability. Now that it is gone, the Swamp is being reintegrated into the Underworld. Still, there was no such thing as an Artifact when I found the fragment in that Sphere of Space and Time light.]

Rean, obviously, heard the conversation. 'Wait, are you saying that we haven't acquired the real fragment we came here for?'

Roan nodded. 'That's definitely a possibility.' It was then that Roan remembered something. 'Of course, there is another possibility. Sister Orb, after you got the fragment, did you notice anything near the area where it fell?'

[Notice something? Not really. As soon as I got the fragment, I just left that area with you all. We got quite distracted by the earthquake that started in the Swamp and the possible coming of the Elder Devils of the Underworld.]

'Wait for Sesame to come back, and then we can check it again,' Roan had an idea.

Inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm, the people of the village began to settle themselves inside the houses. For them, everything happening was like a novel. Yet, the first thing they noticed when they arrived there was the Divine Energy in the air. It was a kind of thing they had never felt before. It made them feel strange.

Fortunately, Sister Orb was capable of talking to everyone in the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm at once. [Alright, just ask me whatever you want. There is no need to make a queue. I can answer everyone's questions at the same time individually. You will hear my voice inside all your heads.]

Around two hours later, several Spatial Gates began to appear near the area where the village was previously located. From inside, tens of thousands of Demon Beasts in a dazzled state fell out nonstop. 'Rean, Roan, just send them all into your Dimensional Realm,' Sesame's voice echoed in their minds.

Rean looked at Celis, who was the real responsible for the management of the Demon Beast territories in the Soul Gem Realm. "Celis, you know where their races are located, so distribute them as you see fit."

Celis nodded and immediately used the permission given by the twins to send batch after batch of Demon Beasts into the Dimensional Realm. Forest, Deserts, Lakes, Sea, you name it. Demon Beasts fell into those places nonstop. As soon as they did, their absent minds came back to normal as they looked around, confused. Yet, it didn't last long as they had no sentience yet.

Sure enough, Celis soon noticed that the number of Demon BEasts far surpassed what the territories inside the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm could support. With that, territorial disputes started everywhere. Nonetheless, Celis and Kentucky looked at it with approval. "Only the strong ones will remain. Nothing better than natural selection."

Things continued like that for another half an hour until the Spatial Gates finally closed. Sesame then reappeared near everyone as he sighed in relief. "Phew... And these are all the Demon Beasts you can find here."

Boom!

Suddenly, the ground shook even more. But this time, it wasn't because of the disappearance of the Foundation Pillar's Fragment. Instead, it came from a specific direction, and it wasn't that far.

Sesame looked in the direction of the sound as his eyes narrowed. "Someone is attacking the wall."

That obviously caught everyone's attention. "Did the Elder Devils arrive already?"

Sesame immediately shook his head. "That's not possible. The effects of the Swamp haven't completely disappeared yet. Besides, the Elder Devils from outside the Swamp wouldn't venture inside so fast. They would be too scared of the Swamp. What if the power of making one get lost inside suddenly reappears? We know it won't happen, but they don't."

Boom, boom, boom...

Yet, Sesame knew that the one attacking the wall was any weakling. "Weird, this power is definitely at the Divinity Realm level. Did an Elder Devil really throw itself inside the Swamp knowing the risks?"

It was then that Rean and Roan remembered. "Right! There was one Elder Devil that got lost in the Swamp many years ago. We heard from Rui of the Light Devil Clan that he never returned. An Elder Devil might not find its way out of the Swamp, but it definitely wouldn't find it difficult to survive."

Sesame immediately nodded. "That's most likely the same Elder Devil, then." Still, Sesame looked away as if he couldn't hear anything. "Alright, we are done with the replacement."

Roan glanced at him. "Is it okay to leave that guy attacking the wall formation?"

Sesame nodded. "That's a formation that I kept running and in perfect condition all this time. I had a lot of free time, so I've never let it go to waste. Let alone him, even two Elder Devils wouldn't be able to break the formation surrounding this place. I calculate that the Devils will need at least five Elder Devils combined power to breakthrough, and that shouldn't happen anytime soon."

Seeing Sesame's unconcerned expression, everyone relaxed as well. "Alright, Sesame. Can you open a Spatial Gate to where we found the fragment earlier? There is something we need to check there."

Sesame then heard Roan's Divine Sense message, explained the reasons, and nodded. "Alright, let's go take a look."

Death... and me

Chapter 2065: New Sword Material... or Maybe not

Once again, Sesame's Spatial Gate opened near the locality where the Fragment had fallen in the past. By now, most of the Silver and Golden Lights of Space and Time had disappeared, revealing a huge crater in there. However, that wasn't all. At the very center of the crater, one could see a hexagonal platform. It had a purple rune on it, which was shining dimly.

Sister Orb was the first to talk when they saw that. [Wow! I truly didn't notice it before. The Fragment wasn't on top of this thing. Instead, it was floating a few tens of meters above, so the Silver and Golden Lights completely covered it.]

Because the effects of Space and Time haven't completely disappeared yet, Rean and Roan's group were far away, letting Sister Orb do the job. Still, they could see the platform as well. There were no doubts that this thing should be related to the artifact the system mentioned before.

"If you think about it, everything makes sense. The Fragments weren't supposed to act like this, but this one specifically was messing so much with Space and Time Laws." Roan didn't find it strange. "There had to be something forcing the fragment to act like that, and this platform should be the so-called artifact."

Rean agreed with him. "True. But as far as I can see, the light on the rune seems to be fading away."

The twins then looked at Sesame. "Is this part of the formations protecting this place?"

Yet, Sesame was as lost as the twins. "I was born here, but I've never seen this thing before. Not only that. Have you noticed? It simply doesn't appear in our Divine Senses at all. It is as if it doesn't even exist."

Sure enough, everyone used their Divine Senses and confirmed that what they were seeing didn't appear in their senses. Only their naked eyes were able to tell that the platform was there.

[Hey, you can come closer already,] Sister Orb suddenly called everyone. [The Space tears and time displacement aren't dangerous enough for you anymore. It might feel uncomfortable, but you should be fine.]

No one wasted time and flew straight to the platform's side. Indeed, the remaining powers did make them feel weird, but that was all about it. Not to mention the feeling was gradually disappearing with the fading of those powers. "Let's excavate around it."

They quickly used the Divine Energy present in their bodies and moved the earth around the hexagonal platform. Turns out that the item wasn't that big at all. It looked more like those board games dice with many numbers. It's just that there were no numbers on this one. Only a single purple rune on top of it, the side facing the sky, was visible. The other sides were empty.

"What is this thing?" Roan couldn't help but ask.

Of course, no one had an answer for that, including Sesame. "I truly didn't know it was here. But then again, now that I'm this close, I can feel that this thing trying to pull Space and Time powers toward itself."

Rean walked around it for a moment as his eyes narrowed. Suddenly...

Bang!

Rean gave it a kick, sending it flying several hundreds of meters away. "Ouch! This thing is truly heavy!" He quickly rubbed his leg, which got quite painful after the kick.

The others looked back at him, puzzled. "Why did you do that?"

Yet, Rean didn't answer. Instead, he became angry and jumped to the dice's side once again. "This is the piece of shit that put us through so much trouble!"

Bang!

This time, Rean was prepared for the weight and hardness of the dice, so he protected himself accordingly. The dice flew even further away, making everyone even more puzzled. Yet, before anyone said anything, Rean raised his hand, telling everyone to not bother Rean.

Bang, bang, bang, bang...

Rean kept kicking the dice right and left nonstop. Not only that, he seemed to be enjoying himself as he did that. "This is great! I can kick this thing as many times as I want, and it doesn't get a single scratch! Hahahaha! I finally found a good punching bag. All the dummies I've forged so far couldn't withstand my power but look at this. It's perfect!"

Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang...

The more he hit the dice, the more content he got. The others looked at Rean, who just kept his arms crossed and didn't say a word, so they didn't do anything either.

Suddenly, Rean brought out his Dark Star Sword and looked at the hexagonal dice with glee. "Forget the punching bag thing. If it can withstand my sword, then I'm going to melt it and forge a new sword for everyone. Hahahaha! Let's go!"

'Death Style, First Form, Stellar Piercer!'

A ray of Dark and White Light went straight at the dice. It obviously carried much more power than Rean's kicks so far, especially a piercing one. Rean didn't hold back at all, using all the Soul Origin Energy, Light and Dark Element, as well as Space Power in the attack. Yet, just as it was about to hit the dice...

Vup!

It moved to the side on its own! Not only that, it was really fast! One must not forget that Rean is at the Space Bending Realm, and his Speed and Strength definitely matched those at the Elemental Space. Nonetheless, the dice successfully dodged the attack in a flash.

"Eh?!" Rean looked at the dice with a surprised expression. "Oh, I see it! The remaining Spatial and Time powers in it reacted to my attack on their own. Now I want to melt it even more. Hahahaha!"

Right there and then, a game of mouse and cat started. Rean attacked the dice from all sides, and the dice dodged everything. Weirdly enough, though, Rean seemed very pleased with that game.

"Hahahaha! Let's see how long the power inside it will last! Come to Daddy, my beautiful new sword!"

It was then that an enraged voice came out of it. [Sword your ass!]

Death... and me

Chapter 2066: Isn't That Obvious?

While everyone seemed shocked by the sudden voice coming from the hexagon, neither Rean nor Roan's expression changed when they heard that. "I thought you would never come out."

Rean immediately sent his Dark Star Sword back into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. "So, you are the so-called Artifact Spirit, uh? You are the second one we have seen in all those years." One must

remember that the twins did find one back in Sunkan Planet, the same that disappeared right after.
"Now then, why don't you introduce yourself?"

The hexagon went silent for a few moments. It was obvious that it didn't intend to talk as its' sentience tried to pretend to not be there at first. However, there was no way it could hide anymore. Rean had angered it to the point that it ended up cursing him. [Hmph! I don't have a name.]

Sesame immediately appeared on the hexagon's side and looked at it curiously. "How long have you been down there? From the looks of it, you were buried here way before the fragment you were using landed all those years ago? Are you the reason why I was born here? Or perhaps you are the reason why I can't leave?"

[I have nothing to do with your situation. Still, I did indeed see when you were born, as I was here before you. Nonetheless, I couldn't talk to you even if I wanted to. I didn't have the power. Not to mention I didn't have the intention to do so even if I did.] The hexagon sentience answered without much care.

Roan didn't seem to care about that at the moment. Instead, he was more curious about something else. "I'm going to call you Hex then. Now, back to what matters. Who... or what are you? Are you really an Artifact Spirit?"

The hexagon just accepted the name as it didn't matter to him. [Hex is good enough. As for what I am, why should I tell you? Just pretend that you didn't know me and get out of here.]

Rean shook his head, obviously. "We can't do that. You see, we think that you perhaps have another one of those fragments. We need them, so can you give the fragment away?"

[Another one? Ha! What a joke! No, I don't have another fragment. What do you think those fragments are, some candy you can buy in any corner store?]

Sister Orb couldn't help but ask something else. [Since you don't have another one, why did you let me take the fragment you were using?]

Roan pondered a bit before guessing. "Because for him, it was a lot more important to not be found than to lose the fragment itself, am I right?"

Yet, he was wrong. [Are you an idiot? If I wanted to hide, why would I keep myself out in the view for you to find me? When you arrived, wasn't I right in the middle for you to see?]

"Is that so?" The others found it strange. "The fragment seemed to be used quite a lot by you. Why did you let us take it away then?"

[Because I was sleeping.] Hex answered straight away without a care for the world.

"Sleeping?" Sure enough, no one expected that answer.

[What, don't your races also sleep? Sentiences can also sleep, especially one like myself that stayed stuck in this place for countless years. Can you imagine what it would feel like to stay awake doing absolutely nothing for so long? Obviously, I put myself to sleep most of the time. I only woke up once I noticed that the fragment was gone.]

"I guess that makes sense..." Hex had been here for longer than Sesame, after all. "Then why aren't you trying to get the fragment back?"

[And how do you suggest I do that? If I ask you to give me the fragment back, will you simply say yes?]

"Not a chance," Roan answered straight away. "Still, you could try to take it from us by force. You were definitely much faster than Rean while he was attacking you with his full strength. And I think not only your speed, but your strength is also just as high."

"It should be because of me, right?" It was then that Sesame talked. "Sure, it was too fast for Rean when it started to dodge his attacks. However, in my view, I could easily match it."

Hex didn't try to hide. [Yes, you are the problem. A Divinity Realm Pixiu is not something that I can take on, so I pretended to not be here even after waking up. I'm not indestructible.]

Sesame nodded. "Then how about this? Tell us what you are and what you are doing here, and I will try not to break you."

Hex went silent once again, knowing it had talked too much. He couldn't be blamed. He hasn't talked to anyone for way, way too long. His mind isn't exactly at its sharpest at the moment. You could say that was also the reason why he didn't hide after the fragment disappeared. Finally, he began to talk again. [Even if I tell you, that won't make any difference.]

Sesame began to control the space around Hex. Now that Hex had lost the fragment, his Spatial Powers were still strong but not strong enough to oppose the Divinity Realm Pixiu. "That's something we will decide. Start talking already."

[...] Hex pondered for a few moments before finally speaking once again. [I'm a Universe Space Temporal Beacon.]

Everyone looked at each other, puzzled. They had never heard about Universe Space Temporal Beacons before. "And what is that?"

[It's exactly what I said, a beacon. Don't you know what a beacon is?]

"That's not what we meant," Roan corrected. "We want to know what type of beacon is a Universe Space Temporal one."

[That's why I said it makes no difference to you. I'm a beacon that shows the location of this Universe in the great void. If you want to travel from another Universe to this one, you use me as a relay point.]

"What?!" That took everyone aback. "Are you saying there is more than just one Universe?"

[Uh? Isn't that obvious?]

Death... and me

Chapter 2067: No One Left

Roan then noticed that they were moving way too far from their initial objective, so he went back to the part that mattered. "Alright, Hex was correct. Even if there are other Universes, there is no point in knowing about them. It's just way too far from our league."

[That's what I said. It's pointless for you to know it. Even because this Universe hasn't received or sent anyone away in a very long time.]

Sesame remembered something. "You said in a very long time, just how long exactly? Also, why are you here?"

[I had lost my power of communication, so it's been longer than the time when that Fragment fell into this place. At least, that's what is recorded within my runes. Unfortunately, I can't tell you why I'm here. I'm an Artifact Spirit, which means I was born within this Universe Space Temporal Beacon. When my sentience first took root, I was already here. The runes inside me also don't have any information about why I was here.]

"So you were universe the Universe Foundation Fragment to recharge yourself?" Roan caught the real use of the Fragment in Hex's case.

[Yes. I was truly lucky. If that Fragment hadn't fallen near me, my sentience would have already disappeared due to the lack of energy. It's not like we Artifact Spirits can cultivate like you all. Especially since this place doesn't have even a spec of Divine Energy or basically any other energy whatsoever. I couldn't even call for help back then.]

Roan and the others nodded before Rean continued the interrogation. "So, you have been using the Universe Foundation Fragment to recover yourself all this time. It even blocked the entire Swamp of No Return in the process. Does that mean you were trying to communicate with the other Universes? The other Universes might be meaningless to us at the moment, but that might not be the case if we suddenly start receiving experts from them."

[Not really. This Universe Space Temporal Beacon where I was born wasn't supposed to give birth to an Artifact Spirit, me. According to what I can see from the information I have inside, it was the connection between this beacon and the other Universes that prevented such a thing from happening. Once again, lucky. Thanks to the loss of connection, I was able to take form.]

"So you mean that if you try to connect again to the other Universes, you might be wiped out from within your Artifact. That's why you won't try to communicate."

[Exactly,] Hex immediately agreed. [I saw I could use the Fragment to help myself recover to the point I would be as strong as this Universe's Divinity Realm experts. Unfortunately, the Fragment was taken away. Such a pity... At the moment, I should be strong enough to compare to a Space-Time Cultivator at the Initial Stage. Obviously, I'm no match for this Pixiu.]

Indeed, that was too weak to be a threat to Sesame. However, that was definitely enough to trash the twins' group. The twins could more or less jump an entire realm to fight. But that wasn't enough. If push comes to shove, burning their nascent souls and fighting together might allow the twins to fight one and a half realms above their strength. Only then would they be able to match Hex in a fight, but they would be fighting against time, as burning their Nascent Soul had a time limit. Chances are they would lose anyway.

[Simply put, if I try to communicate, there is a good chance that I will be eliminated to allow the beacon to work as its creators intended. That's if you believe my story, of course.]

Indeed, they heard all of this, but that didn't mean the artifact spirit was telling the truth. Yet, it's not like they can tell if he is being honest or not, so they could only accept that Hex might be at least hiding a few things.

Rean just shook his head in the end and continued. "Alright, let's just pretend we believe for now. Have you guys noticed one thing? Hex's communication system most likely stopped working when the Extinction Sphere appeared in this Universe."

Celis looked at Rean. "Wait! Didn't he say that his Spirit was born even before the Fragment fell in this place? The time doesn't match."

Roan immediately corrected Celis. "Wrong. What Rean meant was the appearance of the Extinction Sphere. Between the appearance of the Extinction Sphere and Gem's plan that destroyed it, just how much time do you think had passed? Rean is talking about when the Extinction Sphere first started to swallow the Universe whole."

"Roan is right," Rean confirmed Roan's words. "What I wanted to say was that what stopped this Universe Space Temporal Beacon from working was the presence of the Extinction Sphere."

[That makes sense,] Hex believed Rean was right. [I have little information about the Extinction Sphere. The only thing in the beacon's memory is that should it appear, it should warn all the visitants of this Universe so that they can escape.]

"Did it inform everyone?" Roan immediately asked back.

[Yes, it did. The recordings inside me show that everyone who came from outside of this Universe escaped straight away. Or, to be more specific, they were recalled back. That guaranteed that no one stayed behind. Of course, if any of them left descendants behind, that's another story. At the very least, I can confirm that this Universe has no one from outside living at the moment.]

Sister Orb understood what it meant. [I see... It means that for everyone outside of our Universe, our Universe is already gone. The fact they escaped straight away proves that they didn't know how to stop such a calamity or, at the very least, that they had no intention of trying to do so.]

It wasn't a bad thing, in everyone's opinion. "That's good. We can't confirm it, but it is always better if an unknown power thinks you are dead."

Death... and me

Chapter 2068: Time to Leave

"Okay! Let's end this conversation about other Universes here." Kentucky was starting to get bored already. "Can we go back to the fragments thing?"

Roan also thought it was a good idea. "So, Hex, you have no other fragments within you."

[As I said, I don't. I can't prove it, though. You can ask this Pixiu to destroy me and then check my insides.]

[That is not necessary,] Sister Orb immediately intervened. [Hex, you obviously have some ability that prevents Divine Sense from seeing you. I can't confirm that this ability isn't blocking my system's power of fragments detection. If you just turn off this ability of yours, I'll be able to tell straight away if you have a fragment or not.]

[Oh! That is a lot easier!] Hex didn't think twice. The Purple Runes on his sides began to divine and move around, changing forms nonstop. Finally, Hex's entire body shined with purple light before it disappeared. [Alright, it is done.]

Sure enough, Hex appeared within everyone's Divine Sense detection. Hex was the beacon's Artifact Spirit, so he was born already knowing all the abilities the beacon had. That's also why he knew how to talk and the languages the twins' group was using.

Sister Orb quickly used the system to check Hex. However, the system had absolutely no reaction whatsoever, even though it was able to check every single corner of the Artifact. [He isn't lying. At the very least, I don't think he is using any other concealing method that I can't identify. There are really no fragments within him.]

Roan and the others nodded. "That's good. It's not like we want to make enemies or anything like that."

[So, am I free to do as I please now? If there is nothing else, I'll take my leave.] Naturally, Hex didn't want to stay even another second near Sesame. Now that Sesame knows about his existence, and especially after he lost the fragment, he is leaving this place for good.

Of course, there was a problem. Hex knew too much. He knew the twins' group had the fragment, the system, Sesame's existence, etc. Could they truly just let him leave like that?

[Now, now, pretty boy. There is no need to be this fast, right?] Sure enough, it wasn't that easy.

Hex would have smiled bitterly if he had a mouth. [So, it came to this, uh? So, what are you going to do? Destroy me? Seal me? What is it?]

Sister Orb got puzzled, though. [Uh? What are you talking about? No one will do anything to you.]

Rean, Roan, and the others nodded, much to Hex's confusion. [You... won't? Why?]

Roan shrugged his shoulders. "Let's be honest here. Your existence is just as important as our own. I dare say that the fact you could communicate with other Universes is a lot more important than the

fragment we got from you. Simply put, telling others about us is the same as telling others about yourself. Wouldn't that be extremely idiotic? That's why we know you won't go around speaking what you shouldn't."

[That's... true...] Still, it was definitely better if they simply destroyed Hex. Yet, they opted to not do so. Well, that's how the twins worked anyway. Besides, who knows? Perhaps the twins will need Hex's abilities one day. [Ahem... Well, if you don't intend to do anything against me, then what do you need?]

Everyone then looked at Sister Orb. After all, they also didn't know why she stopped Hex.

[It's about his use of the Universe Fragment. Not only was he able to draw out its Spatial Powers, but he also used the Fragment's Time Powers. Do you remember what Luan said? That the system also had time-related powers. My memories are sealed, just like I said before. I can't tell how to make use of it. However, I can at least tell that Hex works in a similar way to the Soul Gem System. I would like Hex to allow the Soul Gem System to analyze him to see if we can unlock time-related powers for our own use.]

Everyone's eyes lit up. If they could make the Soul Gem System work at a different time speed, wouldn't that be one of the greatest abilities for their situation? One thing that the twins had always been lacking was time to cultivate. Places like the Swamp of No Return that had different time lapses were just too rare to come by, after all. Hex was obviously the one who created this time change, so the idea was very interesting.

[Hum... I don't know if it will work. The runes within my own system came from outside this Universe. Not to mention they were made to work with my own structure.]

Sister Orb didn't mind. [Don't worry. You allowed me to check your body earlier. I'm very confident that the Soul Gem System can adapt to the runes used on you, especially with Rean here.]

Rean was more than happy to help. "Great! In that case, let's go into the Soul Gem Dimensional Realm. Hex, we will let you out later when we finish the analyses. Do you mind?"

Hex pondered a bit and accepted the arrangement. [Well, if that will help you let me free later, then so be it. Just don't blame me if you can't figure out a way of using my runes. I'll try to help with all the knowledge I have, though.]

"That's more than enough for us," Rean couldn't help but get excited. After all, he was about to check runes from another Universe. Not only the time-related powers for the Soul Gem System. What other kinds of abilities could he unlock if he learns more about them? "Don't resist. I'm pulling you into our Dimensional Realm."

[Go ahead.] Hex felt the familiar force of space enveloping him before he and Rean disappeared from the outside world.

Roan then looked at Kentucky, Celis, and Luan. "Alright, you guys go back into the Dimensional Realm as well. Sesame and I are more than enough to travel." Right after, those three also disappeared.

Sesame then walked to Roan's side and nodded. "Alright, time to leave."

Death... and me

Chapter 2069: Where to go?

Although Sesame believed it would take some time before more Elder Devils appeared, he wasn't sure. He could hide himself within this land as he was connected to it, but the same wasn't true for Roan. It was best to take his group away as soon as possible.

Roan obviously understood that and agreed with Sesame. "That's good."

Sesame quickly grabbed Roan with his own Spatial Powers and was just about to open a Spatial gate when he remembered something. "Oh, right. Where do you want to go? As long as it's within the Underworld, I should be able to bring you there."

Roan pondered a bit and was a little at a loss about what to do. They knew about another Fragment in the Underworld, the Underworld Relic in Rui's hand, the Light Devil Clan leader and also an Elder Devil. According to their father, there was also another Elder Devil with a fragment in his hands, Belial.

The problem was obvious. Roan's group absolutely didn't have the power to fight an Elder Devil. There was no way they could steal either Rui or Belial's Fragments. It was then that he looked at Sesame. It was at that moment that Roan remembered something. "Sesame... your Pixiu Race was famous because of your Treasure Hunting abilities, right?"

Sesame nodded. "Errr... Sure, we can feel the presence of treasures of Heaven and Earth within a certain distance. Just be aware that I'm at the Divinity Realm. That means only treasures that are useful for Divinity Realm beings like me will activate my ability. Those are not things that you can find just anywhere. Why are you asking?"

"Does the Universe Fragments count within this ability of yours?" Roan answered with another question.

Sesame immediately nodded. "Obviously. Ever since the fragment appeared in this land, I was capable of feeling its existence. It's just that I wasn't able to acquire it due to the sphere of Space and Time."

Roan didn't stop there. "Can this ability of yours be blocked by concealing methods? Things like formations or items inside Pocket Dimensional Realms?"

Sesame shook his head with confidence. "No. Unless you have something like the Soul Gem System that my master created, it will not be able to hide from my perception. I can tell that because the fragment completely disappeared from my detection after Sister Orb took it away. Other Dimensional Realms had never been able to prevent me from feeling the treasures inside."

Roan nodded. "Gem told us that you can leave this land for a few years before having to come back. As long as you aren't away for too long, you won't suffer much, right?"

"Yes, that's correct." Sesame began to see where Roan was coming from. "However, I hope you aren't expecting me to take Rui's Fragment away. If the Underworld Relic is as powerful as you described to the point that all Elder Devils want it, I will be no match to Rui."

"In fact, even if that fragment wasn't made into that Underworld Relic, fighting Rui alone would, at most, end with me forcing him to flee. And it has been a very, very long time since I fought anyone. Let's not forget the main issue as well. Here in the Underworld, you don't have Divine Energy. You have Devilish Energy. It might be a variation of the same Divine Origin Energy, but it is not the type that I use for battle. I'll be naturally a lot, really a lot weaker than any Elder Devil, as long as we are in the Underworld. I don't have even 1% of confidence I could win a fight against any Elder Devil whatsoever."

Roan raised his hand, signaling Sesame to stop before he spoke even more disadvantages due to his situation. "That's not what I want you to do. First, forget about Rui's Underworld Relic. There is no

chance we can take that thing away from him. Not to mention that even if we could, that would implicate his Light Devil Clan. Rui and our group could be said to be more or less acquainted, so I don't want to cause trouble for him. At least not now."

Roan continued. "What I want you to do is to bring me to this Belial guy's home. Do you think he will be with the Devils who came to check the changes in the Swamp of No Return?"

Sesame pondered a bit before nodding. "Well, that is possible. In fact, it would be weird if any Elder Devil lost this opportunity."

Roan also believed so. "Indeed, he probably is here too. However, I don't think he would put himself in a situation where several other Elder Devils are present. As you know, the Fragments are extremely valuable to anyone at the Elder Devil, Archangel, and Divinity Realms. Belial might be very confident as an Elder Devil, but I refuse to believe he can deal with this many Elder Devils at once."

"What do you want to say?" Sesame couldn't help but ask.

Roan coldly smiled before continuing. "Well, Belial definitely knows he wouldn't be a match to this many Elder Devils. Even running away would be near impossible. Still, we are pretty sure he also came along. After all, there is no way Belial would go to the Realm of Gods since it would be too dangerous for a fragment owner. What does that mean? That means he definitely didn't bring the Fragment of the Universe with him here in this place. Since his fragment is not here, but he is, where is his fragment?"

Sesame looked at Roan with surprise on his face. "I say... You look a lot more like a Devil than any of the Devils in the Underworld."

"Thanks for the compliment," Roan definitely liked those words. "So, do you think you can at least find where this Belial lives?"

Sesame laughed in response. "Hahaha! No problem at all! I might not be as strong as an Elder Devil here in the Underworld, but acquiring information of this level is a piece of cake." Right after, Sesame opened a Spatial Gate and brought Roan with him. There was no one left in the lush land anymore.

Death... and me

Chapter 2070: Too Small

Somewhere in the borders of the Swamp of no Return, a very subtle Spatial Oscillation happened in the barrier separating the Swamp and the outside. Still, because all of the Elder Devils available were here, they were still able to detect such a thing. It's just that no one came here to check why it happened.

The reason for that was the actual situation of the Swamp of no Return. The energy inside was increasing nonstop, making the barrier look more like a balloon that kept increasing in size. This kind of Spatial oscillation was happening pretty much everywhere within the borders of the Swamp that kept expanding.

However, this oscillation was different from the others. It only lasted a fraction of a second before completely disappearing. Little did the Elder Devils know, but a Spatial Connection between the inside and outside of the barrier was created in that place. It was used so that a certain Pixiu and a Human could get out of the Swamp.

Sure enough, those two figures were none other than Sesame and Roan. Before Sesame brought the two of them out, they used Sesame's Spatial Concealment as well as Roan's Divine Sense Bending skill. That guaranteed that no one saw the moment they appeared there. They obviously didn't stay there for long. Right after, Sesame opened another Spatial Gate and entered it with Roan.

A few hours later, the Protecting Barrier of the Swamp of no Return finally couldn't hold anymore. All the concentrated energy inside the balloon burst out as the barrier broke into pieces. What followed was an explosion of ridiculous proportions, spreading outwards through tens of thousands of kilometers, annihilating everything in its path.

Fortunately, due to the Swamp's odd abilities, the Elder Devils from the past had long since cleared the area, so no city could be found anywhere near the explosion site. Of course, there were bound to be Devils scattered around in the range of the explosion, but they could only count themselves unlucky for that.

As for the Devils inside the Swamp of No Return, they were a lot luckier. Most of them didn't even know what was happening yet, and because they were too far away from the borders due to being lost, they didn't get close to the place where the energies accumulated the most. Simply put, those far inside the Swamp didn't have to worry about the explosion.

Crazy Luman and his Lakures did stay close to the border, though. However, Luman was already at the Peak Stage of the Space-Time Realm. At his level, an explosion with such a wide range didn't have the power to harm him. The rest of the Lakures in his care were inside his Pocket-Dimensional Realm, so they were obviously fine as well.

Sesame and Roan knew nothing of that. Well, they knew an explosion was going to happen, but that simply wasn't their problem. Sesame was just focusing on moving to a city far away from the Swamp he knew about. As for Roan, well, he and Rean inside the Dimensional Realm were busy with another thing. As soon as they got away from the Swamp, the Soul Gem System sprung to life.

Pin!

[Hosts have successfully acquired the Swamp of No Return Universe Foundation Fragment.]

[Reward: 500000 Destiny Points.]

[Total: 533215 Destiny points available.]

[The system will now be unavailable for the next 50 hours. The Dimensional Realm will be kept open, but all system-related functions will be disabled.]

'Oh! So we finally got the reward for the quest.' Naturally, Rean heard that while he worked on Hex inside the Dimensional Realm.

Roan, who was outside, agreed with him. 'Indeed. Still, Sister Orb should be awake, no? Since she is a separate sentience.'

[Yea, yea, I'm not gonna pretend to go silent because of the upgrade. Still, don't expect me to help with anything that needs the system's access.]

'Not a problem,' Rean didn't mind it. 'We will just keep analyzing Hex during the next 50 hours. You won't have the system help, but you can still work with me to see how Hex's runes work.'

[That's exactly what I was thinking.]

Kentucky, who was also hearing the conversation, couldn't help but ask. 'Does that mean random destiny changes will not give Destiny Points anymore?'

Sister Orb confirmed his words. [That's correct. You have to understand that although Gem created the system, he made it in a way that it would evolve by itself. I liked the idea, so I didn't intervene in this process. Since the system decided that it was necessary to only give Destiny Points through quests, that means it is the best course of action for it. After all, its improvement is directly connected to how well we do. It wouldn't make things difficult for itself.]

'The system did say when it gave the last quest that a lot more Destiny Points would be rewarded once that happened, so I guess we can expect quite a boost.'

Roan only found one problem with this change. 'That's good and all. However, quests are given to us randomly. If no quests come around, there will be no more Destiny Points.'

Rean and the others went silent. Indeed, they never knew when a new quest could suddenly pop out. In the end, Rean just shook his head. 'It's not like we can do anything about it. Let's wait for the system to turn back on and then we can check the changes.'

Without another choice, Roan could only accept the idea. 'We will do as you said.'

Outside, Sesane wasn't hearing anything since the twins' group was using their Soul Connection. Instead, he was paying attention to his surroundings. Finally, he found what he was looking for. "There you are! I knew you wouldn't disappear even after all those years."

Roan looked ahead as Sesame opened a tear in space, bringing the two of them out of the fabric of space. Right in front of him, a city had just appeared. It's just that...

"This is quite a small city..."