

## Chapter 1 - Hell

Gods, Humans, Youkai. Three different beings all living among one another in a singular world. Some may call it Paradise, others heretical. This world is simply known as Yhteys. The Surface World is filled with all three. However there are other more sinister locations, and then there is the underbelly of Yhteys. . .

Hell.

A landscape not meant for humans to simply cross. It is the fiery underbelly of the world, only meant for vengeful spirits, demons and Death himself. Lawless outside, with a large structure that looms over. However, on one fateful day, a new being goes down to live in said Underworld.

A fortress made out of a gilded black brick stood atop of a massive lava lake, with only one connecting bridge to a cliffside. A young man in his pre-adolescent years practiced using a sword, however he tripped as he went for a lunge towards the training dummy set before him, much to his instructor's disappointment.

"Your stance is off, young prince." the instructor said, as she scratched her head. The youth had blonde hair, a gray jacket with a skull, while his eyes shone a bright purple. His neck was lined with a silver necklace decorated with skulls. The prince groaned in frustration yet tried again and again, where he swung at the dummy.

The instructor took a sigh and sat down as she watched him. She wore a dark robe, slim and tattered on the edges. A string ties the robe to her upper torso. Unlike the youth, her head is a floating skull with a dark blue flame emanating from it.

Suddenly, a ray of light suddenly shone in front of the castle gates, which grew progressively more intense by the second. Two beings appeared from said light. A tall woman with long white hair tied into a ponytail, with eyes that appeared like the sun itself. She wore a suit that had a recurring flame pattern that went from her collar all the way down to her sleeves and one side of her pants. She also has a necklace that was lined with five magatamas and a bronze mirror that orbited her right shoulder.

The instructor immediately bowed out of respect, while the prince remained clueless as to who it was that stood before them. "Lady Amaterasu, I am honored to be in your presence" she said, causing the young prince to immediately follow suit after the realization. "What can we do for the head deity of the Sun, Lady Amaterasu?" the young Prince said.

"I am here to see your father, young prince, is he here?" Amaterasu said, in a calm but exuding confidence and dignity.

"He has not left his chamber for a long time. Ever since my mother died... he left the duties of ruling the Underworld to Monty." The boy gloomily replied.

“I see, well I have come here today to speak with whoever is in charge regarding Hell’s flame problem.” Amaterasu said.

“Monty should be coming out short-” The boy said moments before the gates of the main building opened and a middle aged man as tall as Amaterasu appeared. His hair was bright crimson, tied to a ponytail and had obsidian glasses. His piercing glare was cold, unlike Hell’s extremely hot temperature. The man’s suit was dark, with the trim being white and purple. He also wore a tattered cloak similar to the instructor, however he has a skull mask tied to his waist. He also carried a scythe, which has a large eye and four blades aligned together.

“Ah yes Lady Amaterasu, I was expecting your arrival” the man spoke in a raspy yet soft tone.

“Hello there Monty, it has been a long time since our last meeting. Last time you were the King’s advisor.” Amaterasu said, as she smiled at him.

“Ah it has been quite a handful filling in for my Lord. The Underworld had been quite a challenge with these vengeful spirits attempting to control the unholy flames.” Monty said, scratching his head.

“Fortunately, I have the solution to that issue.” Amaterasu said as she ruffled the hair of the young man next to her.

The prince, Monty and the instructor took a look at the younger man, tall as Amaterasu’s neck height, with bronze hair and red eyes with a yellow reticle on his right eye. He sported garb that consisted of a short sleeved loose turtleneck with pouches, loose pants with belt buckles. A short mantle was worn over the top, with a red eye buckle that kept it together.

“My name is Soma, I am a Yatagarasu.” the young man said nervously.

“Hello there, Lord Soma.” Monty said, who attempted to be friendly towards the young God.

“Soma here will be able to maintain Hell’s flames, just let him do what he needs to do and he can control them just fine.” Amaterasu said, as she headpat him.

“I spent lots of time in the Sun maintaining its solar fields, Lady Amaterasu told me it is usually the same thing” Soma said.

“In that case, I look forward to working with you.” Monty said as he smiled, in which Soma was still nervous

“I will take my leave now young one, this is your divine duty, so eventually you will gain a new one in roughly a thousand years. Do well and you may eventually work with me in the office,” Amaterasu said, hugging Soma.

“Will I do alright?”

“You will do great.” A ray of light then appeared to engulf the Goddess and she disappeared.

Soma stood there, hesitant and unsure, then proceeded to nervously wave at the them to which Monty waved back with a gentle smile.

Time has passed since then and Soma is seen in a concrete walled house near the cliffside of a seemingly endless pit of flame. This house was a single floor house with a bedroom, bathroom and the main room that held everything Soma owned. This main room has an anvil in the middle along with a furnace that releases smoke upwards out the opening at the top of the house. A worktable stood, with blueprints rolled up and some were posted on the wall above, with components scattered around as well. Loud clashes of hammer and metal were heard in its vicinity. The young God wore a sleeveless shirt, goggles and his pants were different to what he wore on his first arrival. The metallic tube shone a bright red, which he examined with his goggles. The metal shone a faint azure with green circuit patterns that were hard to see.

“Perfect!” Soma said as he took off his goggles and held it with his right arm.

The young God then took that tube and took it to a worktable and pieced it together using mechanical components from the toolbox. He then grabbed paint spray cans and elegantly and so carefully made a semi automatic rifle. After letting the paint dry off, Soma held the gun and aimed at a training dummy in the other end of the room which already had so many bullet holes in it, which he took a shot at, severing the dummy in two.

Soma then disposed of the dummy and went into a closet full of dummies and placed a new one where the old one was set. He then took the rifle and threw it behind him over his shoulder, causing it to dissipate.

“Soma! Soma come quick!” a small female voice was heard out his window.

Soma looked out the window to see a raven rapidly approaching his house, it looked in distress. The raven did not stop however, and slammed her face on the window.

“Moesashi, what’s going on?” Soma asked as he opened the window and patted the bird.

“The Oni and AmanoJaku are causing chaos and might start another gang war!” she replied, while pointing her feathers at the general location.

“So? They always cause a ruckus. I feel like they always do this on a daily basis. ” Soma asked, crossing his arms.

She put one of her wings to her face and then said “They’re next to the council building, at the Crag and they could all get in trouble if they destroy Yama’s property!”

Soma widened his eyes and wiped off his hands, immediately putting on a short sleeved top that goes from a loose turtleneck to his hips, splitting to the right leg, revealing a maroon shirt

underneath. Soma then flew with the bird towards a cliffside area. Right next to it is a giant building with a monochromatic guard outside its gates.

The two flew towards the commotion where a brawl can be spotted between a tall horned humanoid woman taller than Soma and a smaller one who's the same height as him. The taller one had a red complexion and her horns were long and curved, while she wielded a kanabo on her left hand. However, in her right hand was a sake dish which she sipped from. The shorter one had more of a pink complexion, her horns were stubby and she brandished a nodachi. Both women clashed weapons aggressively. The audience roared in excitement as the tall one slammed her kanabo into the ground, causing it to crack and erupt flames as the shorter one dodged each of the cracks that formed. After lava forced its way through the cracks, causing a geyser, the short one lunged towards the other, where she blocked the impending attack. As they stood there eye to eye, both were trying to catch their breath.

"Give up yet, Hitori?" the tall one said in a vulgar tone.

Hitori spat some blood to the side, glared at the taller one and said:

"Like Hell I'd be done after that half assed move, Naruki!" Hitori replied, which she let out her tongue in mockery.

Naruki, enraged, lunged towards her and tried to lunge again but made a feint to approach for a grab to the face. Hitori's face was covered by Naruki's hand and was swung around like a ragdoll and thrown towards the ceiling of the cavern. Hitori then used that momentum to her advantage and cut stalagmites to fall on Naruki below, which only led to her smashing them to pieces. Hitori appeared in through the dust of the stalagmite rubble and went for a slash to be parried, just barely, cutting her right thigh sending each other backwards. As both of them run towards each other for another clash, they are stopped by Soma who suddenly appears in the middle with two golden gauntlets, blocking both of their attacks.

Naruki and Hitori, shocked to see the God, gave Soma an opening to make his gauntlets disappear and suddenly twin pistols appeared in his hands and shot the ceiling in which two stalagmites fell towards Hitori and Naruki in which they successfully broke the rocks.

As the two successfully destroyed the stalagmites, Soma lightly punched the top of both demons' heads and glared at the crowd to scatter them.

"Do you have any idea what you could have caused down here?" Soma scolded the two.

"The little runt started it though, Lord Soma! She's insecure about her gang being weaker than mine!" Hitori's demeanor changed to that of a child being scolded by her parents.

"You kept saying my chest was too small!!" Naruki yelled at her with a furious glare.

Both let out a faint “grrrrr” and prepared to punch each other, stopped again by Soma giving them both an intense glare.

“The flames are more aggressive here and they can sense conflict. It’s already tough having to micro manage every other incident in the other Circles. That’s why the Craggs are both easier and harder to manage as all of the flames lead to them. Furthermore, your commotion can anger the Officer, or worse the Yama herself if you even so much as go within 3 meters close to the wall itself.” Soma said as he pointed at the building.

The two looked down, angry at each other when Soma noticed.

“This had been yet another time where you both caused me to intervene in your fights. Another one and I will report you both to Lady Tsuriai or even Monty.”

Then the two demons nodded and said “We understand...”

“Now, run along now, I got some work to do” he said, as he looked toward his forge in the distance. The amanojaku and oni both nodded and ran off.

“Why did you let them go scott free?” Moesashi said, in wonder.

“Well Moesashi, there’s a valid reason for this act and it is quite obvious.” Soma replied.

“Is it because even Demons are able to be saved? That killing them will be in your conscience? Or even because you’re actually a Noble God and don’t want to admit it?” she said, expecting such an answer.

“Eh? No, of course not. It’s because I don’t feel like having to deal with additional paperwork.” Soma shrugged and said it smugly.

“Anyways, I’ll head back to my forge, I got something waiting for me-” Soma said before being interrupted by a voice from the distance.

“Oi Soma...”

“OK THAT’S IT, WHO IS INTERRUPTING MY FORGING TIME NOW???” Soma yelled as his eyes flared in frustration. His mechanical arm started to heat up, with a mini sun growing in his palm.

“OI OI OI DON’T YOU DARE THROW A SUN OVER HERE! IT’S ME!!” the visitor said in fear, which contrasted his rather tough guy persona.

“Oh, you could’ve just said so,” Soma replied as he immediately calmed down.

“What brings you here, Apollyon?” Soma asked with a rather casual tone.

“Well I was here to watch the fight...” The boy whispered under his breath. “Do you wanna spar again? I want to train a bit more with a gun.” he said, determined to improve. “Plus you don’t have to call me by that nickname, Cyrus will do.”

“After telling those two demons off, we might as well since we’re not far.” Soma said as he scratched his head.

The two set out away from The Crag only to be stopped by an officer dressed in black and white.

“Soma Rigel, a word please.” the officer said.

“Oh, the Yama’s guard, I wonder what they want.” Soma spoke to Cyrus as he was being called from a distance.

“What can I do for you today, Officer Chowa?” Soma said, in wonder.

“We are here to-” Officer Chowa then spun around a full 360, and in an instant changed forms. This time the person before them was a woman with the same outfit but this time was white.

“-Deliver a message from the Yama.” Officer Chowa said in their feminine form.

Chowa spun again to revert back to their masculine form to finish their sentence.

“By this newest decree of the Yama, Lady Tsurai, head authority of the Nine Hells. Soma Rigel, envoy of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu, the Yatagarasu in charge of managing the flames of the Underworld.-” Officer Chowa spun once again, to their feminine form. “Your duties in the Nine Circles of Hell have now been..”

Cyrus observed intently as to what their next word was as he began to sweat.

“Relinquished.”