

The Ancient Realm between Life and Death, a place created since the beginning of time to be the gateway from the realm of Hylia's light into the realm of the afterlife, where the good were given home and the evil were long forgotten. It has been called The Realm Between.

The first King & Queen used this realm to create the Shrines of Light, where their powers were used to hold back the tide of monsters in Hyrule, their souls claimed in this realm to be forever sealed & therefore, never to return to the land of Hyrule.

In the void of greens, blues and dark skies, there was a lake much larger than Hyrule's own vast waters, where it mirrored the void and appeared fathomless. Yet those who step forth into it find it's a meter inch deep.

Yet it is not only this lake, as an unconscious form laid upon it: Diana Tanner.

It wasn't long before the lapin began to stir from her slumber, whereupon waking up gasped with shock at her location. She was up on her feet quickly, splashing water as she looked left, right, even turned several times to see anything.

However, she saw nothing, and only one thought came to mind for her.

'Where the fuck am I!?!' Diana looked perturbed by her predicament, unable to see anything that could point her in a direction. But nothing showed up: This did not look like Tokyo nor any place in Japan, it was somewhere else.

So Diana groans with a gruff, rubbing her face with a degree of stress, "Ok Diana, take a deep breath, try to not lose your fucking mind... How did this all happen!?" And so she thought back to what she did that day before... all of this... And she remembered with a gasp.

Diana was with her friends on the roof of their family's apartment home, where they were camping out near Mr. Kaizoku's Dojo. And after everyone went to sleep, she decided to look at...

Diana reached into her pocket to pull out what was possibly there, and there it was: The tear-shaped stone.

But what caught her eye was the stone's color: it was a pearl hue, yet now it was a swirling mixture of mostly purple and faint yet different colors. Whatever happened when she held it, whatever it was, it's not natural in any way, shape or form.

Not only that, but brought her to this. . . It looked like a strange realm that came from one of Bon nibel's video games.

“Ok, so check that off the bucket list. Though I think discovering another dimension is different from being thrown into one.” After pocketing the stone and wiping her face with her hands, Diana groaned into them, speaking aloud, “But I gotta stop complaining. I gotta find the others.”

And so began her run through this realm, splashing through the thin watery surface to see if she can’t find her friends. Yet the more she ran and looked, the more she felt she was becoming more and more lost, like she was chasing her own tail.

A growl of frustration left her throat as she looked all around her, growling out, “Why is this all happening? Where am I?!”

You are where you need to be.

Diana went on high alert as her eyes scanned all around the realm, trying to find the voice that was... wherever it was. Yet she saw no one anywhere... all except an orange-red & blue flame that suddenly appeared a few feet away.

Her posture became firm & battle-ready upon seeing it right there, yet relaxed when nothing happened. Looking every which way, she slowly moved closer and spoke hesitantly, “W-What-?”

Follow me...

And off the spirit flame went with haste, with Diana shouting for it to wait as she ran after the flame, jacket over her shoulder. Her splashing foot-falls could be heard throughout the realm, but never echoed as she followed the little spirit.

As they moved through the realm, Diana saw something form in the distance ahead of the spirit. It was stardust like in formation, like one of those nebulae of elements in the sky. The closer they got though, the more the shape began to form, a silhouette, a body, ears & a figure. Diana gasped as they got close enough to know what, more so who, it was: Her grandfather.

Yet it wasn’t just any memory of her grandfather, it was the exact moment Diana last saw him before he seemingly disappeared from the world. From her & her friend’s life.

As Diana moved to touch the memory though, it dissipated into a cloud of stardust that floated into the realm’s sky. The touch made Diana remember when he had vanished from her life, or more so was taken from it. Where he was just plucked from it.

Continuing on through the strange realm, Diana saw more figures from her life that she had connected to & lost from her life. Four friends that disappeared from the world, just like her grandfather did. Lee the Hawk was the first, then it was Sari the Lioness, Kuro the Armadillo, and finally Paiya the Shark.

One by one, these people disappeared from Diana & her friends' lives without so much as leaving a note or tell-tale sign of their destination. And the more Diana lost, the more Diana felt her promise wane: To protect her friends & all she swore to protect. That her efforts were not enough.

Tears began streaming down Diana's face as each phantom faded to the sky above. She fought through the tears, trying to chase after and grasp at the shades of her old friends, even as they slipped through her hands.

Why was she seeing their shades? Why was she reliving that pain, even of her grandfather? Why-?

Diana slipped upon the water with a splash, feeling the coldness of the water yet never getting wet as she slammed a fist into it. With the broiling anger & anguish within herself she shouted towards the sky, "GIVE THEM BAAAAACK!!"

There, Diana slowly collapsed onto her shins, staring at the water as her tears seemed to mix with the water below her while panting.

As her crying wound down, and Diana could see once more, her eyes slowly turned upwards to see another shocking sight: Lee, Sali, Paiya and Kuro. At least, their spirits of a sort.

In a way, Diana just accepted the fact before her, "I failed you guys... I promised you that I would keep you guys safe... I'm not even sure if you really are here or not." Diana's eyes went to the waters below.

Just as more began to fall, Diana felt something wiping her tears away. Opening her eyes revealed Philia in front of her, who always held the most wholesome smile, still doing so even after all this time. Diana notices how close the others were, and still feeling a hint of guilt, flinches a little from them.

Then she felt it: Arms wrapping around her, feathered, fur covered and rough scale & skin alike. They were... warm, and they spoke, hearing voices of care and calm, feeling that... they held nothing against her, that she did her best. Diana wasn't sure if she had gone mad, but she returned the hug, never wanting to let them go for as long as she could.

And then, after a moment or so, she opened her eyes to see them gone, nothing but the vastness of the mirror lake around her. Yet in Diana's hands lay four gemstones, each a different colors of red, yellow, blue and green with different animals etched into them.

Diana still felt them close to her, gently holding the gems closer to herself as she wished them to be safe, or at least at peace. When she opened her hands again, the gems were gone, save for a glow that vanished into her fur, leaving Diana gasping softly to this.

She checked herself for a moment before she saw the floating wisp once more. Why was it even there still?

“Why am I here? Why show me this?” Diana questioned, rising from the waters as she wiped her eyes of the tears.

You wished for answers, for the truth. Your wish has been granted.

The lapin’s head shot up at the wisp’s voice, shocked by that and what it said before speaking up, “The truth? How?”

Then it began to move once more, yet Diana saw something in the distance: A glowing golden light. And so Diana followed the wisp once more, splashing through the realm’s waters.

Upon arriving closer to the light, it slowly dimmed down to reveal a strange sword. The hilt & handle were beautifully made in blue with a wing-like guard, yet the blade looked to have been corroded by something terrible, something...

It didn’t sit right with Diana for some reason, the markings on it giving her goosebumps. Like it wasn’t just corroded, but corrupted by something.

Just as she got close enough to it, the wisp entered the sword with a red & blue flourish and the sword began to drift closer to the lake’s surface, threatening to fall into the fathomless water.

So without thinking, Diana moved closer and held her hands out to gently grasp it. For the decayed blade it had, the damaged sword as a whole still had heft to it, and the places where the blade still remained were sharp.

Sharp enough that Diana cut her finger on it. “Ouch!” She yelped, the cut on her finger sizzled from the cut, bleeding blood and some kind of smoke that faded, sucking on the finger to stop the bleeding.

Even with the corrupted decay of the blade, a good amount of the blade remains, along with the strange symbol on its face. . . Diana stared at it for a good time. It felt like the symbol was seen somewhere before, but she didn’t know- Wait, she did actually!

It was something Fredric researched for a long time. He told her after she found his notes that there was a long-forgotten society that worshipped a goddess known as ‘Hylia’ who was both wise & kind.

“But how is this connected?” Diana questioned, reaching her left hand up to rub the sword’s untainted surface, right over the symbols.

Just as she brushed her left hand over the symbol, she watched a glint of light go upwards, then another and another, before she stared down at her hand to see splotches of light on it, trying to shake it off yet none came off.

The decayed sword began to slowly glow brighter and brighter, too damn bright for Diana’s liking as she shut her eyes and yelled out when the sensation became too intense and everything turned white.

Then, she was falling into the depths of the ocean, where bubbles streak from her falling form. Diana was diving further and further into the sea, with the only light coming from her hand.

She fought against the weight that was dragging her downwards, to try and aim for the surface to try and ascend. Yet her vision, her consciousness began to wade.

In the void of the sea, she saw someone that shocked her to somewhat consciousness: The being with the white robes & golden bear skull mask, the same intruder in her grandpa’s home. Why was she here again? And. . . Why was she smiling warmly at Diana?

As the being moved closer, Diana felt her embrace her in the cold waters, the only warmth around her in the void. Then the being spoke, her voice... Diana’s consciousness slowly faded into the darkness, leaning into the being’s touch and warmth.

A feeling of safety, even to the unsure lapin.

“Welcome home, Diana~”

===={Hyrule}=====

Long ago, before Hyrule was ever known, there was a great kingdom above even the skies.

And to rule it was the Ancient Zonai King, a being that was young & strong, yet held wisdom that could have been ages old. He was not only strong, but intelligent and courageous, just as much as he was cautious. He cared about his citizens and his family, being a king, commoner, and father in view.

One day, his son & daughter wished to go to the land below and establish a kingdom, one that would thrive. The Ancient King saw importance in his family & people, so he became the royal guard of his son & daughter and allowed the city to descend from the heavens.

In their time, the Kingdom of Hyrule was established by Rauru & Sonia, the Hylian wife to the new Zonai King. When the day came that Rauru proposed to her, she cared not for the Secret Stone he offered as a token of their marriage, she cared more about how open her love's heart was and how joyous she was to say yes to him.

In time passing, the two soon bore a child, a young Zonai that inherited Sonia's eyes and Rauru's likeness. The two could not be happier to have their family, with Mineru having a sister figure in her life. Hyrule entered a state of peace and prosperous growth, with the discovery of The Depths and the Dwellers below. And it made the once-king proud.

This would not last, however, when a Gerudo man filled with dark desires took Sonia's life and Secret Stone, and some say that Sonia's daughter perished with her by the Hands of Gloom. The Gerudo man, Ganondorf, transformed into a monster known as the Demon King and unleashed war upon the races of Hyrule.

The tragedy was enough to drive the Ancient King to a frenzy, blinded by grief & anger by the loss of his granddaughter & daughter-in-law. He fought against the Demon King's army alongside the Hyrule's soldiers & his generals, but nearly lost his life when the Demon King struck him from behind and weakened both his power and mystical weapon.

It was then that Rauru, with the help of six sages wielding Secret Stones, entered a battle with the Demon King to vanquish him once and for all...

But the Demon King's power was without match. The Sages & Rauru could not defeat him.

In a final act, Rauru used his power to seal away the Demon King's own power, sacrificing his own life to ensure thousands of years of peace. This was the Imprisoning War.

The survivors created the castle of Hyrule as both a testament & vow that the Demon King will remain sealed within the depths, forever.

None know what happened to the Ancient King, nor if he survived. Some say that his spirit still remains, always watching over Hyrule for as long as the Demon King remains sealed. As if waiting to fight the evil one last time.

But there are those who reflect on a prophecy, left behind by the mother of Rauru & Mineru.

'When the land falls to the Demon King's rule once more, the daughter of the King & Queen of Hyrule shall return, broken & lost, to find herself once more and vanquish the Demon King alongside the Warrior of Courage, Sage of Spirits & Princess of Light. This marks the Zonai's Return, along with the Ancient King.'

Link was stunned hearing the tale told by Mineru, the spirit of the Sage of Spirit and long-time companion on his quest, as they sat near the training dummies at Lookout Landing under the full moon's glow. Mineru had a solemn tone to her voice, where only Link knew the undertones of sadness behind the formality.

He had remembered the tale told by Mineru before, both of the Imprisoning War and the demise of Rauru, but to be told of not only a kingdom that was ruled by Mineru's father & mother, but that Rauru and Sonia had a child? It shocked him.

A frown was on his face as he signed, [*Why tell me all of this now?*]

A soft smile formed on the spirit's lips as Mineru looked to Link, but one that was sad, "Because there is someone I miss dearly. Someone who I looked to, not like a pupil, nor an equal, but someone I was close to. Someone who I... saw like my own sister." Mineru was shaking, not from the cold, but the feeling in her heart at the thought.

Link could only stare at Mineru with muted shock, mouth agape to see Mineru in such a vulnerable state. Yet, even in his silence, Link slides his hand gently upon Mineru's nonexistent hand, seeing Mineru's eyes lay upon him as he spoke with a single hand.

[Then maybe someday, you will see them again, and I hope to meet them as well]
Link's hand wraps around Mineru's as best as he could, with the Zonai spirit following his hold. [I know our time has been short, I know you will return to the spirit realm after this, but... I want you to know that... Zelda and I will miss you. And... thank you for being by my side, for making my burdens feel less heavy]

Ever since their adventure from the start of the Great Sky Island, Link had grown attached to Mineru just as much as he had grown attached to Zelda, to have someone to be by his side for his journey, to share his hilarity and woes with. He looked up to Mineru and Zelda for who they were, wishing he had their wisdom, their tenacity, and their hearts.

And the same was said for Mineru. Not only had she found solace with Zelda, but with Link as well. The tales of what Zelda told of Link had been proven as they journeyed to find the Sages, to see Zelda again even as a dragon. And with every layer that Link dropped, Mineru saw a likeness in the Hylian warrior. An aura just like Zelda's own: Determination & Spirit.

The two were closer to each other, not only connected by companionship, but by hearts as well. Link had lost so much in his past, just like Mineru had, and it was their unwavering wills, their desire to keep all they hold safe, that too brought them closer.

"And I thank you, Link, for being with me at my worst and enjoying my best, for being there for Zelda. I want you to know, even when I am gone, I will always be with you

and her.” Mineru’s focus wandered to the moon, higher up than that, even as she whispers beyond Link’s hearing, *‘If his plan doesn’t work.’*

Link wasn’t sure what she said, opening his mouth to ask.

That was when they both felt the rumbling of the earth around them pick up in tempo. All in Lookout Landing, all of Hyrule itself, felt the tremors and sights they were about to see. The moon began to turn red with blood as Gloom rose from the earth as vile vapor, yet the moon remained for longer than normal as it became so red that it looked ready to bleed.

From the depths of Hyrule Castle, Link, Mineru and all over watched as four vile spears of Malice & Gloom rocket forth towards the four regions. Where in their wake, vile energies fell to the land of Hyrule, bringing about new hordes and an unknown force.

But with the spears, all watched as the roar of a monster was heard coming from the castle itself, like Calamity Ganon was yet to rise once more, before the castle became enshrouded in Gloom, from above to the spire holding it.

A new disaster was beginning once more, and the way to Ganondorf was closed off.

Link & Mineru were on high alert now. Their plan to enter the castle, to go into the Depths and fight Ganondorf for good was for naught with this new development, and the regions under a new threat that had just been laid bare.

Link could already hear Purah call for the return of all the Monster Control Crews and for messages to be sent to both the regions’ races and to the remaining villages to be on high alert on the new occurrence. Mineru was getting her construct ready, telling Link that they should use the Skytower to see what has happened.

All of that was on hold as they soon felt something. For Link, it was a zing of energy, and Mineru, a pulling force. Yet they both look upward to see the Blood Moon, moreso the center of it.

In the center was a whirl of green & purple energy, fighting the Gloom to bring a new light to the land, as if pushing a way to be opened. And with it the smolders of Gloom slowly faded to bring Zonai motes, becoming the ancient language then back to motes that faded.

In the sky, they watched as the moon’s glow condensed into a pinprick of shining light before, from that very glow, a comet of purple and green shot towards the land of Hyrule, shards and sprites of light falling from its path.

The feelings that Link and Mineru felt came to a point where Link's arm glowed Zonai green and brought him discomfort & pain, while Mineru... she realized she was being pulled under the earth. She attempted to pull herself up, but to no avail.

"LINK!" Mineru yelled with fear as she was pulled down to her chest.

Link, who spotted Mineru's distress, swiftly lept to the Zonai Spirit and actually gripped her hand to try and pull her up with all his might.

Yet his strength was waning, stressed by the unnatural nature of his new limb and the weight of his body going haywire. It wasn't long before his vision wavered and his strength left him, letting go and falling unconscious while his arm continued to glow.

"LI-" Mineru's shout was cut out as she was pulled under the earth, where she began to feel herself wane, and for the first time in 100,000, fell into a peaceful slumber.

All watched the fall of the comet, which began to split apart into four shards towards the regions of the four races: Rito, Goron, Zora & Gerudo. And at the center of the split, a small speck of light that fell to the land and faded into the earth, leaving behind a Sundelion & a Brightbloom in its wake.

And coming from every part of the region, five figures made their way to Lookout Landing, along with a masked individual, when they first saw the comet's fall.