

INT. The Mother Tree - Ethereal

The Time Tree is part of the God of Death's domain. It is a giant hollow weeping willow with pocket watches hanging off the branches like leaves. Inside the willow are the god's personal lodgings which Eden has so gracelessly made a mess of in search of answers.

EDEN paces around the room, books and thinga-ma-jigs scattered everywhere during his frantic research. In the middle of the room sits an unfinished summoning circle with an offering in its centre, a single swiftly wilting lily grown in the Garden of the God of Death.

Eden skims through a few books until his expression shoots up, finding what he was looking for.

Eden

(trying to stay calm)

"Yes! Okay, that should do it."

Eden finishes the rest of the circle and tosses some of the books aside, making space for the summoning. The circle begins to glow as Eden kneels down and starts silently praying to the god of Death.

Eden

(chanting-like)

"All that ends, ends at one where all ends lie. God of Death
Akhir, I require your court."

Eden

(softly spoken after the prayer, pleading)

"Please, come back to me."

The room lights up with the dim glow of the ritual, which seems to go well until the circle suddenly fractures into 6 and everything in the room starts to float.

Eden
(panicked)

"oh gods, oh nononono--"

Eden tries to break the circle, stabbing a knife into the inscriptions on the floor but it is already too late.

A blast throws all the items about the room against the walls, breaking and shattering into smithereens. Eden has to duck his head down to not catch the brunt of it in his face.

The room is silent for just a moment the offered lily duplicates and decays into ash to reveal the form of Eden's mentor

Eden
(Hopeful but with a sense of doom, slowly)
"...Ahkir?"

Ahkir gives a fond smile as he catches sight of his young avatar.

God of Death // Ahkir
(fondly)
"Hello sprout."

Eden's returning smile fades as he sees the shackles that bind his master.

Falling feathers form the god of Knowledge, who quickly grabs Death's shoulder, holding it in a painful grip.

Eden has to shield his eyes as a bright light appears next to the gods in the circle, revealing the Gods of the Sun and Moon, holding hands as they appear together.

a tree sapling grows swiftly in the circle and forms into the long lean figure of the God of Life, who instantly steps towards Ahkir and holds onto his shackles.

Blood pooled up from the soil and formed the god of Desire. Eden's eyes widen as he recognizes him.

God of Desire // Hunter

(sighing, neutral, almost sounding sad or disappointed)

"Well, it was a good effort"

<said whilst looking at Eden's attempt at breaking the circle>

Eden

(confused)

"Hunter? What are you doing here?"

God of Desire // Hunter

(giddy)

"Honestly? Just taking in the view. All this godly desire around here, it's quite the acquired taste, my boy."

Eden

(taken aback)

"But... I thought you were on our side!"

God of Desire // Hunter

(shrugging)

"If death is gone, then death will be that which is most desired. I am empathetic to your cause, yes. But at the end of the day I have to look out for my own court first. I do apologise."

<he says the last almost mournfully, casting a look towards Akhir>

Eden

(betrayed, angry, outraged)

"You-... you maggot! You disgusting two-faced traitor! I hope you rot "

Eden suddenly gets dragged back harshly before the god of the Sun drops him back to the ground further away from the circle.

God of The Sun // Lior

(amused)

"Ah, this fledgeling has got some fire in them. Are you sure this wasn't supposed to be one of our court, Andora?"

God of Life // Andora

(sense of burrowed anger)

"Yes, I made him myself after all. Fate however, had other plans"

God of the Moon // Lune

(emotionless, almost kind of nervous)

"There is no sense in delaying this. Grab Ahkir's watch."

God of Life // Andora
(Slightly annoyed)

"I suppose 'please' hasn't grown with the ages. Very well"
<very well spoken with an exhale>

The god of Death gets dragged out the circle and is forced on his knees by the God of Knowledge, who recognizes the book next to Eden and smirks whilst picking it up.

God of Knowledge // Ezmos
(Gleefully, smirking)

"It's good to see the book made its way alright. I was almost afraid you would miss the hidden pages. It seems Dara filled out their role perfectly, just as you did."

Eden thinks back to the librarian, giving Eden a book that suited his pursuits. The realisation dawns on Eden and makes his stomach drop.

Eden
(dreadful)

"You knew. You knew I would find a way to summon him."

God of Knowledge // Ezmos
(slightly boastful)

"But of course. I am the god of Knowing, not of guessing."

Eden
(softly, starting to tear up)

"I am so sorry, master."
<directed towards Death>

God of Death // Ahkir
(assuringly, calming)

"All is well, sprout. This is not on you."

God of the Sun // Lior
(stern-ish)

"Where is the boy's watch? The fledgeling should not be left alive."

God of Death // Ahkir

(Angry)

"You promised you would leave the mortal alone. He is nothing to you when I am dead."

God of Knowledge // Ezmos

(amused)

"Come now *Ahkir*, do you really think we would take that kind of risk? If he lives, the court of Death may survive"

God of Death // Ahkir

(pleading)

"He won't be able to take my place in my court once I die. This mortal is no threat to you. He will just be unclaimed again."

God of Knowledge // Ezmos

(shrugging)

"Perhaps so, but I would rather not let your successor run around like a stray dog. Too many loose ends, I am afraid."

Eden

(Frantic)

"This is madness! You can't just do this. You can't just bottle up death."

God of Life // Andora

(anger boiling up)

"You may say what you like, little mouse, but as far as I am concerned these are the words of a dead man. You were never meant to be the Avatar of Death. You were destined to be of my court. You could have done great things under my guidance, my son."

Eden

(angry, deeply deeply angry)

I am NOT your son! You are insane! You all are. You're not going to get away with this!-"

Eden starts to speak again when Death cuts him off

God of Death // Ahkir

(calmly)

"It is no use, Eden. Deaf people hear no reason. Let them see for themselves what fate awaits them."

The God of the Sun reappears with the God of Moon, bearing two watches

God of the Sun // Lior
(stern-ish, slightly stand-offish)

"Let's not stall. I want this to be over, now"

God of knowledge // Ezmos
(slight arrogant tone, bitchy)

"I must agree. It was lovely chatting to you both but there's lots of things to do and we have been waiting for so long to get to work."

God of Desire // Hunter
(slightly mournful)

"It's been a pleasure, Ahkir. I am sorry"

God of Death // Ahkir
(calmly, fondly)

"All is forgiven, old friend"

Eden
(desperate, crying)

"No please! You can't do this. Please! Ahkir!"
<Pleading to Ahkir to do something, anything in the end>

God of Death // Ahkir
(smiling kindly)

"All will be well, Sprout"

Death's watch bends in the Sun God's hand before it shatters into a thousand pieces. The god of Death falls over, his lifeless form laying in front of Eden

Eden screams and breaks out into sobbing, grasping his dead mentor in his arms.

Energies gather around him as the air starts to feel static. A sort of dust levitates off of the dead god's body and lifts up towards Eden.

The second watch breaks on the ground as Knowledge throws it. Shards of glass and pieces of metal scattering everywhere.

Eden is silent as he falls to the ground, landing next to his mentor as a final tear spills. The energy settles for only a moment, and a moment is all the gods needed to trap the powers in a bottle for exactly this purpose. If you were to put your ear against the glass and listen carefully, you could hear the faint ticking of clocks.

God of the Moon // Lune
(surprised, relieved)

"Fate was wrong. Death does die"

God of the Sun // Lior
(fondly)

"Time is ours now"

God of Knowledge // Ezmos
(emotionless, slightly pleased with herself)

"It is over. I will return to my duties now."

God of Life // Andora
(pleased)

"You chose well, Hunter. I will remember this."
<assuring Hunter as the god of Desire looks at his dead friends>

God of Desire // Hunter
(softly)

"Thank you, I just need a moment"

God of Life // Andora
(understanding, slightly sad)

"It is okay to be sad. Find comfort in the fact that they will be the last people we mourn."

(pause)

"Take all the time you need, you have it now, after all"

Andora takes another long look at Eden, sighs and turns away

The gods leave silently after that, leaving Hunter, the god of Desire to stand over his dead friends.

As Desire stands over the bodies with a grim face, he kneels down and grabs something from Death's pocket, before laying it in Eden's hand

God of Desire // Hunter
(mournful, softly)

A promise is a promise, my friend

-cut to black-

-fade in-

Eden wakes up to the ticking of a clock and slowly opens his eyes. In his hand lies a broken pocket watch with time still represented by its tiny arms, counting away the seconds.

Eden looks at the body of his mentor and cries softly