

Soul Storage
By holodrom

Anubis squinted at the fine print on the parchment as the font size dwindled until it was unreadable. "...and all souls deemed to be possessing certain qualities must thereby by the arbitrator be..." He frowned and chucked the scroll onto the desk that sat between him and the jade-skinned demon, Lexus. "Look, I don't have time for all of this. I said I'd help your underworld manage the current overflow since things are slow over in ours. Why do I need to sign so much paperwork?" The black-furred jackal god showed his teeth as he scowled.

"Hey, it's not my choice to make everything about contracts and paperwork. I hate it, but if I don't do it the big buy will literally flay me alive. And the worst part is it won't even kill me!" Lexus complained as he cautiously nudged the contract back towards Anubis. The poor demon was currently stuck negotiating terms of service between Anubis, acting as an independent contractor, and Lexus's boss, Lord Satan. Being caught between two godlike figures was bad for his current state of "being in one piece."

"Ugh, fine. I suppose the documentation will be useful if any of my co-workers need to know why I was away. Fine, here." He snatched a pen and the contract and signed on the bottom. The scroll quickly rolled up and disappeared.

"Phew, thanks, you're saving my ass. Looks like it's all in order, you can go on ahead!" Lexus let out a sigh of relief and got up from his seat to escort Anubis through Hell.

Flames raged and souls wailed all around, all of which the jackal found to be gaudy and overwrought. "Your boss has terrible taste in decor."

Lexus shared a strained grin. "He knows what he likes!" He said, neither agreeing nor disagreeing, afraid to be on the bad side of either entity. "Anyway, here we are, these are the gates. As you can see, there's a bit of a... Queue."

The iron Gates of Hell were closed, and a countless number of ghastly souls loitered outside, currently experiencing a small slice of their eternal torment in the form of "waiting in a line that never seems to move."

"Indeed. Now, how exactly am I helping manage all of these souls? I have some ideas, but I'd need to see your organizational logs-"

"Oh, don't worry, it's all in the contract. Here we go!" Lexus grunted and winched the gates open wide enough for a single file line to pass through. The idle crowd of souls saw their opportunity to escape the eternal queue and sprinted through the opening. As soon as they crossed the threshold, their ephemeral bodies were subjected to a powerful vortex, and they shot across the room and straight into Anubis's mouth.

"ULK??" Anubis staggered back as the first one slammed into the back of his throat and shot down into his stomach. "Urp-! What are you-ULP?" He couldn't get a word in as the crowd rushed forward, oblivious of the fates of those who stepped through moments before. One after another, the doomed souls were balled up and shot into the jackal's mouth like so many pieces of candy. He tried to close his mouth, or block it with his hands, but as soon as the next soul got within an inch of his mouth his hands moved away and his jaws opened, and he swallowed them down into his expanding black-furred stomach.

"I'm -ulp- going to -homph UURPP- kill your boss!" Anubis raged as he realized how exactly he was going to "help" with the overcrowding. His stomach was expanding into a faintly

glowing globe, ballooned with the influx of eager souls. It bulged to his sides and stretched out the golden markings that were painted onto his skin. His fur prickled and fluffed up with agitation at the trick. His stomach wasn't heavy, but he still found himself holding it with both hands as it expanded just to wrangle the sheer size of it.

"Ugh, yes please..." Lexus muttered, certain no one would hear. He was transfixed on the sight of the jackal god's ballooning middle.

It bounced from the force of each soul shooting down his throat and crashing into his stomach walls, making a slight bulge on impact. His slim figure was now adorned with an orb of black fur that could be seen jutting out to his sides from behind. Anubis had to widen his stance to keep his balance as his belly became cumbersome, stretching out to the point that he struggled to contain it in his arms. He squeezed it, hugging it against him, distorting the orb so that it pressed up against his face and down against his thighs.

Doing so made the robes covering his lower half pop off. Beads scattered across the floor and the cloth fluttered to the ground at his feet. He felt like he must have consumed hundreds of souls already, his stomach compressing their energy to take up less space, but even this had its limits as evidenced by how round his belly was growing. He struggled to keep his arms around it, the pressure was forcing his limbs apart until he finally lost his grip on the situation. His stomach surged out with an audible BWOOMPH and glowed from within with a pale greenish light as souls swirled about within.

He was practically pressure dazed by the time the influx stopped, and it took him several minutes to realize the filling had ceased. He grunted and pushed down his stomach to glare at Lexus. The gates were still open, but there were no more souls outside, for the moment. "I know this isn't your fault, but come here." He didn't actually wait for the demon to approach. He closed the distance between them in two steps and pinned Lexus between the floor and his gut. "You're attending to me until this contract is over, got it? Now rub." He snorted just before another soul appeared at the gate and walked through, getting sucked into Anubis's belly.

"Urgh... G-got it, sir..." Lexus did as he was ordered and kneaded into that soul-bloated orb of black fur as best he could. He was grateful it wasn't as heavy as the size would suggest. All in all, as far as punishments went, this wasn't too bad. Having to rub this stomach for the next week as it ballooned with souls was preferable to anything else he could be doing. It was almost his own slice of heaven in Hell.