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KAMIGAMI NO ASOBI – Hades Fate Ending (Chapters 3, 4 + 2 endings)

TITLE: A Cursed Life

YUI: We were talking about club activities…

YUI: I thought about telling him about the planetarium.

I told him honestly.

DIONYSUS: …Uh, isn't that bad?

YUI: I know.

YUI: But I need to tell him. If I don't…

Hades would be completely separated from the astronomy club.

DIONYSUS: Did something come up…?

DIONYSUS: No, don't say it. If the vice-president has decided, then it's okay, right?

YUI: …Yes.

HADES: What are you talking about? If it's not related to me, then I'm going.

DIONYSUS: Sorry to intrude. I'll shut up, so stay here, Hades-san.

HADES: …

For now, it looked like he'd listen to me.

YUI: First, I apologize. I lied to you, Hades-san.

YUI: We didn't go look at the stars yesterday.

HADES: Why do you need to lie? Are you ridiculing me?

YUI: The astronomy club is making a planetarium right now.

YUI: The planetarium is a gift from us to you.

HADES: A gift…?

YUI: We wanted Hades-san to come back… So, we kept it a secret so we could surprise you.

YUI: But, if you're giving up right now, then I need to tell you.

YUI: …Please don't give up yet. At least not until the planetarium is done.

Hades averted his eyes, a painful expression on his face.

HADES: Why… why would you do something like that? I don't understand.

HADES: What do you all expect from me? I'll only bring misfortune, but you even…

DIONYSUS: I don't think so. You taught us how interesting the stars could be, right?

DIONYSUS: Everyone's happy about that, and they want to be with you.

DIONYSUS: Everyone loves you more than you think, Hades-san. It's just that you're not accepting it.

Hades's grim expression disappeared at Dionysus's words.

HADES: …This is a strange place. I feel like I'm dreaming.

DIONYSUS: It's reality. Whether you rejoice or feel pain about it, it's up to you.

When I looked at him, he was smiling. But it was a bitter, self-hating smile.

HADES: If I didn't have… that grudge…

He whispered those words.

HADES: The last stargazing event was like that, but didn't I cause problems for you all even before that?

I couldn't say that the things happening around Hades weren't part of his misfortune.

HADES: If I wasn't cursed, I could savor this happiness forever.

YUI: Hades-san…

Those were very grave words.

YUI: …?

Suddenly, I saw a flash of light. The light was pitch black. But, it disappeared in the blink of an eye. I rubbed my eyes, but I didn't see the light anymore.

DIONYSUS: You suddenly spaced out. What's wrong?

YUI: I thought I saw a weird light…

DIONYSUS: Light…?

The two of them looked confused. Maybe it was an illusion. I didn't want to think about it too deeply, so I decided to forget about its existence.

DIONYSUS: …Anyway, Hades-san. Will you continue club activities?

HADES: I…

When he began to talk… We heard a sharp crash.

YUI: What was that…?

DIONYSUS: It's that, in that classroom…!

In the direction he was pointing was the astronomy clubroom. The glass window was broken, and a chair had fallen outside on the veranda. Did the noise we hear come from there?

YUI: We should go see what happened. I'm worried about the planetarium.

DIONYSUS: Me too…!

We hurried to the clubroom.

BACKGROUND: ASTRONOMY CLUBROOM

APOLLON: …

When we opened the door, Apollon was standing there. In front of him, the planetarium… The broken planetarium was in front of him.

YUI: Oh no…

What happened? I thought I should figure it out…

CHOICE

>Ask Apollon
>Look at the planetarium
>Check the surroundings

CHOOSE: Ask Apollon

YUI: Apollon-san, what happened here?

I peeked up at his face. I thought it would be an expression sunken in sadness, but he had an unnerving smile on his face. My spine froze. It didn't look like him at all.

CHOOSE: Look at the planetarium

I went over to the broken planetarium. It was almost unrecognizable. There was a huge crack in it, like it was hit by something. Who did this, and how?

CHOOSE: Check the surroundings

I knew from a glance that the planetarium didn't break by itself. There was a large crack in it, like something had hit it. I looked around for anyone who could have broken it.

YUI: There's… no one.

There were only the four of us and the remains of the planetarium. There was also the broken glass and the chair on the veranda. I didn't see anything else.

(choices converge here)

???: Hehe…

I heard some strange laughter.

YUI: Who…?

???: Hehehe… Hehehe…

The source of the laughter was Apollon. His shoulders shook as he giggled. He actually seemed pleased with himself.

DIONYSUS: Hey, what are you laughing at…? Did you go crazy with sadness?

APOLLON: Fuhaha, hahaha…

Giving no answer to Dionysus, Apollon continued to laugh. He lifted up a nearby chair with one hand…

…and, facing the broken planetarium, he threw it with all his strength. The chair broke parts of the planetarium and crashed through some more glass.

YUI: …!

We stood speechless at the unbelievable sight. Still smiling, Apollon brandished another chair and persistently beat at the wreckage. He smashed the planetarium over and over, as if he despised it.

DIONYSUS: Apollon, stop it…!

Dionysus recovered his composure and tried to stop Apollon. But Apollon was holding another chair, and he couldn't get close.

DIONYSUS: Hades-san, lend a hand here!

HADES: Y-Yeah…!

The two of them grabbed Apollon, who was still laughing, and restrained him.

Then, I noticed a mark on the back of Apollon's hand. It had a familiar, emblem-like shape.

…Hades's curse? When I approached him to get a closer look, the mark had already vanished. What was it? Did it have a connection to the black light?

APOLLON: What… What am I doing here?

Apollon blinked as if waking up from a long sleep.

DIONYSUS: What are you doing…? That's what I want to ask you.

DIONYSUS: Why did you break it?

APOLLON: Break…? What did I break?

He laid eyes on the broken planetarium, and his question was answered.

APOLLON: It can't, it can't be… Did I… do this…?

Apollon's eyes widened. His body shook, like he couldn't believe it.

APOLLON: Why did I do this…? Why did I have to break everyone's dreams…?

His eyes filled with tears.

APOLLON: …

His face fell in dejection. He had completely lost trust in himself. He moved his trembling, unstable limbs and ran out of the room, as if running from the scene.

YUI: Apollon-san…!

He didn't stop for me.

DIONYSUS: What happened to him…?

HADES: It's my fault. It's my…

DIONYSUS: You can get depressed about it after! Shouldn't we chase after Apollon right now? Here, let's go!

Grabbing Hades's hand, Dionysus dragged him along.

YUI: I'll go too.

I started to run, chasing after Apollon. Images of the black light and the strange marking floated into the back of my mind. I had a bad feeling about it.

NEW CHAPTER: Hades Chapter 4 (Fate Ending) – Malice of the Dead

After today's incident with the planetarium, Apollon went missing… Morning classes were cancelled, and everyone was sent to look for him. We found him in the garden outside school grounds, and after he was taken care of, he rested in his room.

Right now were extracurricular hours. But, due to the shock of losing our planetarium, the astronomy club was cancelled for today. The feeling of losing something that we all worked together to make was a powerfully sad feeling. And now, I was…

YUI: We finished cleaning up the glass. Should we go soon?

We disposed of the broken glass and put the planetarium in a cardboard box.

HADES: …Did you see it?

Looking out the broken window, Hades asked me this.

YUI: Did I see what?

HADES: The mark on his hand. It looked like mine.

As he said this, he placed a hand over his chest, where the curse was engraved.

YUI: So you saw it too, Hades-san?

HADES: Yeah, but only for a moment.

YUI: Me too… What was that, exactly?

HADES: Apollon is carrying some kind of curse too, maybe influenced by me…

HADES: I can think of many possibilities, but there's no way to check now that it's disappeared.

YUI: …That's true.

That whole unbelievable situation was over. We agreed to watch over Apollon after this, but we had no idea if it would happen again or grow worse.

Hades turned his gaze toward the cardboard box.

HADES: What should we do with this?

YUI: We shouldn't… give up on the planetarium yet.

YUI: We still need to fulfill our original goal of bringing back our club president.

When I said that, Hades smiled warmly.

HADES: There's no need for that. You can change that goal now. You don't mind if I participate, do you?

YUI: …Huh?! Are you going to help us?

YUI: I mean… are you coming back to the club?

HADES: Only for a short while. I'm worried about Apollon too. And I want to answer to everyone's feelings a little.

HADES: I'm sorry for leading you all around with my selfishness.

Hades lowered his eyes in apology.

In response, I…

CHOICE

>Chide him for his selfishness
>Tell him not to give up
>Ask him for his cooperation

CHOOSE: Chide him for his selfishness

YUI: That's right…!

YUI: Even though it would've been fine if you just continued activities with us!

I jokingly scolded him. Hades gave me a bitter smile.

HADES: It's just as you said. But I'm… just not good at living life. …Forgive me.

I nodded at his words.

CHOOSE: Tell him not to give up

YUI: If you think that, then please don't give up.

Hades: I can't promise you anything. I still can't judge whether I should be with you all or not.

We had no choice but to be satisfied with the current situation.

CHOOSE: Ask him for his cooperation

YUI: We would love for you to work with us. It would be reassuring.

HADES: …Is that so.

HADES: Your words are reassuring too. Thank you, Kusanagi.

His expression softened in happiness. We'd gained back the support we needed.

YUI: No, I should be thanking you.

(choices converge here)

YUI: Um, so…

YUI: Should we start making the planetarium again tomorrow?

We were already familiar with the procedure, and with Hades's help, it should go faster than before.

HADES: Okay. I'll come back here tomorrow.

HADES: Shall we go? I'm worried about Apollon.

YUI: Okay, let's go.

We left the empty classroom, which was now spotless.

BACKGROUND: HALLWAY

First, I needed to discuss the plans for the planetarium with everyone… Thinking about how to proceed with club activities, I walked to school alone. I left the chilly sports field and walked through some warmer hallways toward the classroom.

…I wonder how Apollon is doing. Did he cheer up a little? I was also concerned about everyone else. I hoped they were alright…

APOLLON: Fairy-san! Hey, Fairy-san!

Did he chase after me? Apollon was running up from behind me.

YUI: Ah, good morning.

He looked a little down, less spirited than usual.

APOLLON: I did something unforgivable yesterday. …I'm so sorry. I can't apologize enough. I'm sorry.

With a sorrowful expression on his face, he lowered his head.

APOLLON: I won't ask you to forgive me… If you like, you can kick me out of the club. I really feel sorry for what I did.

He sounded miserable. I thought of how I should answer him…

CHOICE

>Ask him about his condition
>Tell him to continue club activities
>Tell him not to worry about it

CHOOSE: Ask him about his condition

YUI: Are you feeling okay today?

APOLLON: Only my chest hurts. I'm not doing anything weird anymore. It was just yesterday morning…

YUI: Okay.

He was acting really strange yesterday.

YUI: Please let the pain in your chest subside slowly. Your physical condition is the most important right now.

APOLLON: …Thank you, Fairy-san.

CHOOSE: Tell him to continue club activities

YUI: There's no need to apologize. You're a precious member of our club.

YUI: Please continue to work hard for our club. There's no point worrying over something that's already over.

YUI: We're going to make the planetarium again, so let's work together!

APOLLON: You're kind, you're really kind. Thank you for giving me those warm words.

CHOOSE: Tell him not to worry about it

YUI: I don't really mind, so please don't beat yourself up so much.

APOLLON: …I got it. If you say so, then I will.

Apollon nodded weakly.

(choices converge here)

YUI: Ah, by the way…

I changed the topic.

YUI: You might know this already, but Hades-san is coming to the club today.

YUI: I heard he's going to help us make the planetarium.

APOLLON: Eh… is that true? Uncle didn't say anything to me about it.

YUI: Hades-san is… well, he's reserved, and kind of… inept.

I thought of all kinds of reasons. He might be thinking that it's all his fault, or that he should be nearby to save anyone if they get caught up in his misfortune. He's probably in conflict with himself right now.

YUI: I don’t want to force you, but because Hades-san is coming back, I want you to come to club activities if possible.

APOLLON: Ahh, of course…! Of course I’ll go.

Apollon’s smile was as bright as before. Seeing him, I felt happy and smiled too. With high spirits, we headed to class.

BACKGROUND: CLASSROOM

The bell rang for the end of classes. At the same time, Takeru stood up from his seat and started running.

TAKERU: Hades-san…!

HADES: Wh-What…? What is it?

Hades flinched at Takeru’s loud voice.

TAKERU: I’ll take your bag!

HADES: …Huh?

TAKERU: I heard you’re going to be at the club today! Here…!

Acting like an excited follower, Takeru snatched the bag out of Hades’s hands.

TAKERU: Okay, let’s go…!

Saying this, he winked. Was this part of a strategic plan? He heard Hades was coming to the club, but he didn’t know what was happening. So I suppose he was thinking of being more positive… so he could create a better mood for club activities, but…

HADES: O-Okay… Let’s go. With everyone else.

It was a little overkill. Seeing Hades’s silent plea for help, I picked up my bag and headed toward the hallway.

DIONYSUS: What happened to Takeru? It’s kind of creepy…

YUI: He’s probably happy about Hades-san coming back. He hasn’t shown up in a long time.

Both Takeru and Apollon had joined the club because of Hades. Of course he’s happy.

YUI: We should try to be enthusiastic too.

TAKERU: Then, you take the paper you poked holes into and make it into a twelve-sided ball…

HADES: I see, that's clever. This way, it's far easier to make.

As soon as we entered the empty classroom, Takeru explained the process to Hades. Up until now, Takeru was the one being taught, so he seemed pretty happy at having those positions reversed. Dionysus started to make the same thing as last time… Apollon watched everyone from a corner. He looked lost. I was afraid he was remembering what happened yesterday.

YUI: Apollon-san, come join us.

APOLLON: I'm… um, kind of nervous…

YUI: That was yesterday. There's nothing you can do about it.

DIONYSUS: That's right, Apollon. No need to stress yourself out.

DIONYSUS: But you should talk about that one constellation we made. If we can't snatch him back, Hades-san might distance himself from us again.

APOLLON: Th-That's… That's true. It's not the time to be worrying about myself!

Apollon furiously picked through the remains of the planetarium, his hands a blur. After a while, he suddenly burst into Hades and Takeru's conversation.

APOLLON: Uncle, Uncle Hades…! I want you to see this!

TAKERU: In the middle of my explanation?

Takeru made a sour face.

TAKERU: Ah, that's…

Apollon was holding the planetarium in his hands, the crack in it now sealed. It was the one he himself broke yesterday.

APOLLON: We need to make it over again, but this…

In a place where Hades could see, Apollon traced a finger over the pinholes.

APOLLON: In the winter, all sorts of plants wither, and humans await the next harvest. So, I tried making this constellation here.

Muttering about how he didn't know if this was going to work since he fixed it so quickly, Apollon turned out the lights in the classroom.

HADES: …What?

As if in answer to Hades's question, he pressed the switch on the planetarium. The room was filled with a faint light. Confirming this, Takeru began to speak.

TAKERU: The Lord of the Underworld, the Constellation Hades! The Underworld is underground, so you can also be the god of good harvest, right?

APOLLON: That's why, in the winter sky… it shines and gives hope to everyone.

As he said this, Apollon pointed to a single constellation.

TAKERU: So? Do you like it? It's a special constellation just for us!

The lord's constellation, which only shines in the astronomy club's sky - it could be called the symbol of this club. Seeing the hand-drawn stars, Hades smiled.

HADES: …A constellation in bad taste. If it really existed, humans would constantly live in fear of death.

Contrary to his words, he looked very pleased.

APOLLON: I think it's a good thing. The only ones who see death are those with lives. Everyone will want to live their lives fully and completely.

HADES: You're too optimistic. But, that's one of the virtues of the sun.

Hades's expression warmed with happiness. He looked at each club member one by one.

HADES: I'm grateful for your kindness. I have no idea I could gain something like this from the astronomy club…

HADES: I never thought I'd see the day that I, who can only look up at the heavens from the depths of the earth, would become a constellation.

HADES: I should be in more misery than anyone else, but right now, I am happy. …Thank you.

Hades's eyes softened, and he showed us a very gentle smile. It was a truly happy expression.

???: …Unforgivable.

YUI: Huh…?

I heard a low voice.

And then.

???: You have no need for happiness. Suffer in eternal darkness…

HADES: Who… are you?

DIONYSUS: Hey, what's happening here…?

Apollon grabbed Hades's collar and glared at him fiercely.

TAKERU: What the hell are you doing to Hades-san?! Let him go, idiot…!

Takeru forced himself in between them. I tried to help, and I…

CHOICE

>Deny Apollon's words
>Slap Apollon's cheek
>Protect the planetarium

CHOOSE: Deny Apollon's words

YUI: Don't say things to hurt Hades-san.

YUI: Everyone has the right to happiness. To deny that to him…

???: Shut up…! He is mistaken. We shouldn't have died yet.

YUI: We…? What are you talking about?

Apollon flew into a rage and lunged for the gods around him.

CHOOSE: Slap Apollon's cheek

I strode up to Apollon and slapped his cheek.

YUI: Get ahold of yourself…!

YUI: This is the same thing as yesterday! What happened to you?!

Instead of answering me, Apollon raised a fist and lunged for the gods around him.

CHOOSE: Protect the planetarium

I figured I should protect the planetarium, so I stood in front of the tools and materials. Even though it had already been broken once, it was an irreplaceable part of us… So I wanted to protect

it. I didn't want Apollon to get hurt again, or anyone else to be sad again. But those hopes were soon broken.

???: Don't get in my way…!

Apollon screamed, struggled, and desperately attacked the gods who were trying to restrain him.

YUI: …!

Caught up in the struggle, I fell to the ground.

(choices converge here)

Apollon took a chair in his hands and waved it around wildly. The planetarium materials flew everywhere, and the tools shattered to pieces. He broke the window again, and the shards fell to the ground.

TAKERU: What the hell… what the hell are you doing?!

DIONYSUS: He's crazy… This isn't Apollon.

APOLLON: Hehehe… Ahahahaha!

Apollon let out an unnerving laugh. On the back of his hand, the mark… that emblem had appeared once more.

YUI: It's happening… again.

…Even though it was supposed to have disappeared.

HADES: So that's what it is.

I heard Hades's voice. He sounded depressed. He loosened his clothing and checked the mark on his chest.

There was… nothing there.

YUI: Huh…?

YUI: What does this mean? Where's the curse…?

HADES: …It's him.

HADES: It has transferred to Apollon.

YUI: How can…?

Something unbelievable was happening before my eyes. As if in agreement, a creepy smile rose to Apollon's face.

???: Hehehe… It's your fault, wishing for happiness…

???: If you seek happiness, we'll curse him… We'll plunge him into the very depths of misfortune…!

HADES: …

Hades remained silent at those spiteful words.

???: Hahaha, what a coward! Suffer for an eternity…!

Apollon yelled and collapsed to the floor.

TAKERU: Hey, are you okay?! …He's breathing. It looks like he just passed out.

I ran over to Apollon and checked that he was safe.

TAKERU: Shit… I'll go take him to infirmary.

Takeru carefully lifted him up and left the room.

YUI: What should we do… about that curse…?

HADES: …

Hades was still silent.

DIONYSUS: Hades-san, do you know what's going on?

DIONYSUS: If you do, then tell me what's happening to Apollon.

HADES: …It's the malice of the dead.

HADES: It's a grudge I bear from those who died with regrets… It piled up without limits until it became a curse that resides in my body.

HADES: And just now… when I sought happiness, it moved to Apollon.

HADES: They did it to threaten me.

DIONYSUS: What's with that…? Isn't that unreasonable?

DIONYSUS: What should we do from now on? How can we fix Apollon?

HADES: …

Once again, Hades fell silent. And, without attempting to clear away Dionysus's concerns, he left the classroom.

DIONYSUS: I'm going to go after Apollon and Takeru. I'll leave Hades-san to you.

Dionysus wrinkled his brow in concern.

YUI: Yes!

The both of us left the clubroom. I parted ways with Dionysus and chased after Hades, who had already disappeared. He was probably feeling terrible after something bad happened with the curse… The situation he had tried so hard to avoid had, unfortunately, happened. Worried, I desperately searched for him.

BACKGROUND: COURTYARD

Unable to find Hades anywhere in the school building, I went to the courtyard.

He was there. He was doing nothing in particular, just standing there. His expression was as dark as Dionysus had predicted, like he was reproaching himself. He was probably still in shock at having dragged Apollon into the curse.

I wanted to cheer him up somehow…

CHOICE

>Tell him a joke
>Call out to him normally
>Try rubbing his back

CHOOSE: Tell him a joke

YUI: Um, Hades-san.

When I called his name, he looked over here.

…Now.

YUI: I guess you could say we're on the highest tier of tearfulness[1]… or something.

HADES: …Don't push yourself. I'm thankful for your consideration, but don't worry.

YUI: S-Sorry.

It seemed like my feelings of wanting to comfort him had reached him.

CHOOSE: Call out to him normally

YUI: So you were here, Hades-san. I was looking for you.

I ran up to him.

HADES: I made you worry about me again. You didn't have to chase after me all this way.

YUI: No, Hades-san is really precious to us.

He silently smiled at my words.

CHOOSE: Try rubbing his back

YUI: Hades-san, are you okay?

I went up and stood next to him, gently placing a hand on his back.

HADES: …What?

Hades looked a little bewildered.

YUI: Doing this helps relax the body. It probably hurts to think about all the painful things that have been happening.

I continued to rub his back.

HADES: Thank you, I do feel calmer. Your hand is very warm.

Hades looked a little more peaceful.

(choices converge here)

YUI: About Apollon-san…

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[1] Original joke in Japanese: 悲しみのあまり、目に涙がなみなみだ。(kanashimi no amari, me ni namida ga naminami da, lit. "when you're really sad, your eyes fill to the brim with tears")

YUI: …That was a shock. To think he was under the influence of the curse…

YUI: Up until now, it's been affecting us indirectly, like that rain… but I didn't know it could take this kind of form.

YUI: You're probably a lot more surprised and hurt than I am, Hades-san…

Hades shook his head.

HADES: Sorry to betray your expectations, but I'm not troubled in the way you think.

What a strange answer.

YUI: What do you mean?

HADES: I can't make the decision… the decision of whether or not to save Apollon.

YUI: Huh…?

My eyes widened at the unexpected answer.

YUI: You know a way to save him?

HADES: Earlier, they said they would curse Apollon if I became happy.

HADES: If I do as they say, then Apollon might return to normal. It's just a guess, though.

HADES: But, on the other hand, I also have these ugly feelings of wanting to savor any kind of happiness…

HADES: If I could ignore that misfortune for an eternity, I… I would be happiest I've ever been.

HADES: Though my nephew has nothing to do with this, I still feel sorry for myself and almost want to let him take my misfortune from me…

Hades's expression distorted in pain. He really didn't want to think this way…

HADES: …It's a disgusting thought.

He sighed as he said this.

HADES: While I've spent time in the Underworld, even my character's become rotten…

He might have seen crueler things than I could imagine as a human. Choosing the path of happiness at the expense of someone else… Or to shoulder that pain of misfortune forever… It was extremely difficult to choose between the two.

HADES: What should I do?

Without warning, Hades asked me this. I thought about the future of his curse, and…

CHOICE

>Hades should bear it
>Only you can decide that
>Apollon should bear it

CHOOSE: Hades should bear it

YUI: I think… you should bear the curse, Hades-san.

Fearfully, I answered him.

YUI: Apollon loses himself when he has the curse, but you're different.

YUI: I can't say which choice is more painful. But I think he could hurt people around him when he loses himself.

YUI: So… that's what I think.

HADES: You're right… Hearing that, I've decided.

Hades smiled, looking lonely.

CHOOSE: Only you can decide that

YUI: I can't answer that. The choice is a heavy burden…

YUI: The only person who can decide which path to take is you, Hades-san.

YUI: I'm sorry I couldn't answer to your expectations. But, this is the best answer I can give you.

HADES: No need to apologize. I think you're right. Sorry for asking something so selfish.

HADES: …I will decide everything from now on.

He spoke with strength in his voice.

CHOOSE: Apollon should bear it

YUI: I think Apollon-san should be the one to bear the curse… So we should just leave it.

YUI: I really feel bad for him, but you've been in pain all this time.

YUI: When I think about it, that's the answer I arrive at.

HADES: …

He didn't answer me.

(choice converge here)

???: Hey, gloomy.

I heard footsteps come closer to us.

HADES: Did Zeus call me out?

YUI: Z-Zeus?

THOTH: Good intuition. Go to the headmaster's office.

YUI: Could I… could I come too?

HADES: I involved you in this. You have a right to know what happens.

I exchanged questioning looks with Thoth.

THOTH: …If he allows it, there is no need to ask for my confirmation.

YUI: Then, I'll be going.

BACKGROUND: THRONE ROOM

When we went to the headmaster's office, Zeus stood there silently, his eyes closed.

THOTH: Just as directed, I've brought them. Be thankful.

ZEUS: Good work.

THOTH: Excuse me.

I suppose Thoth saw no meaning in making a fuss, because he left the room without hesitation.

ZEUS: You can probably imagine why I have called you here. …It is about Apollon.

ZEUS: He has been continuing his foul behavior, but the reason is you, Hades, is it not?

YUI: …You know about that?

ZEUS: I do, as the one who stands at the peak of this Garden.

After answering my question, Zeus directed his gaze to Hades once more. It was a sharp look, like a glare.

ZEUS: …What is happening to Apollon's body? Tell me everything.

HADES: It's a curse, the malice of the dead that has accumulated in me, the Lord of the Underworld. I've been receiving the direct effects of it for some time, but…

HADES: It has transferred to Apollon, trying to back me in a corner slowly. Just as you pointed out, I'm responsible for everything.

ZEUS: …Is there no solution?

HADES: If I abandon my hopes for happiness, the curse should return to me. It was foolish to want anything else.

ZEUS: I was asking how to exterminate the curse.

HADES: There is no way to exterminate it. Someone is fated to suffer.

ZEUS: …

Zeus fell silent. The light disappeared from his eyes, and his expression was dark enough to make me want to look away. He usually presented himself so grandly... This was the first time I'd seen him look like this.

ZEUS: …I have something to ask of you.

Zeus looked at Hades, his expression a mix of seriousness and distress.

ZEUS: Save my son. There is no one other than me who can carry out a parent's duty for him.

ZEUS: …But, that doesn't mean there is no love. If I can… I want to give him the greatest love I am able.

ZEUS: Apollon probably despises me, but I have not forgotten my son once.

HADES: So, because of that, you want me to choose misfortune…?

ZEUS: I understand that I am in no position to ask this of you.

ZEUS: I'm ordering you, my older brother, as if I control the Underworld itself.

ZEUS: It is no exaggeration to say that I am the one forcing this situation to a conclusion…

ZEUS: But, no matter what… I want to save my son.

ZEUS: Please, Hades. I beg you…

Zeus… Zeus lowered his head in request.

ZEUS: Save Apollon somehow. Please…!

Hades averted his eyes from Zeus's pitiful form.

HADES: …

His expression was complicated.

HADES: I have always hated you and been jealous of you. You and I are like light and shadow.

HADES: Even gods face jealousy. When I compare my circumstances to yours, I ask, why did I come to this…?

HADES: Apollon is the same. He has done no wrong. He is simply your son.

HADES: He is an honest, radiant young man. Simply seeing him stirs up a dark, muddled part of my heart.

HADES: But… You are my younger brother, and Apollon is my nephew. It's a precious relationship.

HADES: Those two things are always swirling around in my mind.

With these complicated feelings, it would be difficult to simply decide. How could everyone gain happiness…? I thought about that possibility in my heart…

CHOICE

>No one can be happy
>Share the pain
>Zeus should take the curse

CHOOSE: No one can be happy

…No one can be happy in this situation. I couldn't help thinking that. If the curse won't disappear, then someone has to bear it. If someone falls into misfortune, then other people around them will get involved, and it becomes even more difficult to just acquire happiness. There's no way to stop this endlessly vicious cycle… It was a terribly sad thought, but I couldn't help it.

CHOOSE: Share the pain

It's not the same for everyone, but each person has their own kind of pain to deal with. If I think of it that way, then wouldn't it be possible to save someone, more or less? If we can't erase the curse, then there has to be another way to salvation… There must be something. I desperately searched for an answer.

CHOOSE: Zeus should take the curse

Hades had suffered enough pain from the curse. But if he didn't want to give it to Apollon, then… Zeus, the one responsible, should receive it instead… I had such selfish thoughts. Someone had to get hurt. That was inevitable.

(choices converge here)

Then, as those thoughts continued to swirl throughout my head… Something flashed outside.

The color of that light… is it…?

YUI: Apollon-san…?

There was no mistake. The black light… meant that another incident was happening. Hades also noticed the light and what it meant.

HADES: We're going. Let's settle this.

…The curse? What did Hades decide? Before I could ask, he had left the headmaster's office. As I began to chase after him, I looked back at Zeus. Zeus silently watched Hades leave. As if leaving all the decisions to Hades, Zeus didn't even take one step out of the office. I averted my gaze from him to look once more at Hades… And I followed him, the god who had decided his own fate.

BACKGROUND: FOREST

When we followed the light, we arrived at the forest.

DIONYSUS: Ah, I thought about coming to get you.

DIONYSUS: He rested for a while, but when he woke up, he went crazy.

TAKERU: It's different from last time. He won't come to his senses at all. He'll be okay, right…? He'll turn back to normal, right?

YUI: That's…

I didn't know. Everything depended on Hades.

HADES: Leave the rest to me.

Hades headed deeper into the woods, alone. I continued after him, but stopped mid-step.

YUI: Apollon… san…?

He was in a different form than normal, but it was unmistakably Apollon.

HADES: Thanks to the curse, his limiter must have stopped working. That is his original form… as a god.

There was an incredible pressure coming from him. It was as if he changed the air around him just by standing there.

APOLLON: Ah… Ugh… I don't… want to hurt anyone, anything… anymore…

His words sounded normal. But, he looked unstable, and it wouldn't have been strange for him to suddenly go on a rampage again.

APOLLON: Someone… help me…

His expression was filled with agony. Seeing him in such pain, I thought I should reach out to him. Right now, I could call out to Apollon, or I could leave everything to Hades. The path I chose was…

THREAD OF FATE

>Call out to Apollon
>Leave it to Hades

(ctrl+f "CHOOSE: [your choice]". I will put the lowest-cost choice first.)

CHOOSE: Leave it to Hades

FATE ENDING 2: Loneliness of the Lord of the Underworld

The only one who can confront the curse is Hades. Thinking I should leave everything to him, I backed away and watched.

HADES: You. Come out.

APOLLON: Uncle Ha…

MALICE OF THE DEAD: Haha, hehehe… What do you want, Underworld king?

A creepy smile, like a crescent moon, arose on Apollon's face.

HADES: It truly seems like you've left me out of your games for a month…

MALICE OF THE DEAD: Cut the nonsense…

HADES: I agree. Come back to me.

Hades spoke firmly.

HADES: If you hurt anyone other than me, I'll take you back.

HADES: I don't need happiness… I don't need a heart to feel happiness anymore. There's nothing for me to worry about.

YUI: Huh…?

My eyes widened at those heavy words. Throwing everything away like that was too much.

MALICE OF THE DEAD: Hehehe, hahahahaha…! We knew you'd say that!

MALICE OF THE DEAD: You stupid god… If only you hadn't wished for happiness in the first place, then he wouldn't have had to suffer…!

MALICE OF THE DEAD: Actually, we just wanted to see your face when you saw Apollon getting hurt because of you!! Hehehehe!!

Apollon's form returned to normal, and the mark on the back of his hand disappeared. And that meant…

HADES: I've really troubled you all. But, there's no need for worry anymore.

YUI: But, Hades-san…

APOLLON: Uncle… Hades…

Apollon had come back to his senses.

APOLLON: You've taken on the misfortune, haven't you…? I wasn't… any help to you…

HADES: I didn't want your help from the beginning. So, don't make that face. I'm fine now.

HADES: I received so much happiness from you all, enough that it was too much. This was the most fun I've ever had.

Hades turned his gaze to the astronomy club members standing there.

HADES: Thank you. It was only a short time, but I'm happy I could spend time together with you.

HADES: I won't forget you. So please think about me sometimes.

HADES: I want you to remember this stupid, unfortunate man. I'll live on in your memories.

TAKERU: Hades-san!! What are you saying? Aren't we friends? Aren't you our leader?

TAKERU: You came all this way with us. Why do you have to give up here? There are so many stars we haven't seen yet!

HADES: That straightforward part of you always soothed my heart.

HADES: To be honest, you all following me around really bothered me at first, but… I'm glad we met.

Hades passed in front of us and began to walk out of the forest.

YUI: Where are you going…?

HADES: I'm returning to the Underworld. And I will never see you all again.

YUI: But…!

DIONYSUS: Wait, Hades-san. Graduation is coming up soon…

HADES: Step aside.

Using both hands, Hades roughly thrust Dionysus away.

DIONYSUS: Wh-What are you doing…? This isn't like you, Hades-san.

HADES: Never concern yourself with me again. I am originally the coldhearted Lord of the Underworld. This is my true face.

His cold stare shot through us like a sword of ice.

DIONYSUS: …I got it. You're acting cold on purpose, so we won't be sad to part with you.

DIONYSUS: Isn't that right?! Why are you still so kind, right until the end?

HADES: …

Without a response, he turned his back on us and began to walk. He didn't look back. Seeing his determination, I hesitated to follow him.

YUI: …ngh!

But I just couldn't give up, so I chased after him.

BACKGROUND: THRONE ROOM

HADES: Zeus. Everything has ended. Can you send me back to my world?

ZEUS: But, with that…

HADES: Isn't this what you wanted? Your son is safe. Nothing will change.

HADES: …If anything has changed, it's that I am no longer troubled.

HADES: I will no longer chase after happiness or live in sorrow.

HADES: I probably won't see this world or you ever again. Isn't that refreshing?

ZEUS: How could you say that? You are my brother, my precious brother Hades.

HADES: It's been a long time since I've heard the word "brother" from your mouth. I could die in peace now.

HADES: So, send me back to my own world, before I change my mind.

YUI: Please wait! Are you really, really alright with this?

I ran up to Hades and grabbed his arm. I felt that if I didn't, he would disappear.

HADES: …The one I didn't want to come stop me the most has come. You're truly troublesome.

HADES: Even though I tried so hard to put up a strong front. Just be quiet and see me off properly.

He stroked my hair gently.

YUI: But, but…!

The tears I had been holding back spilled out onto my cheeks. I was crying like a child, my voice coming out loudly. He wiped away my tears with his fingers in a soothing gesture.

HADES: …Don't cry. I want to remember your smiling face. Show it to me, so I won't forget it.

YUI: …!

Seeing his troubled smile, it finally occurred to me that this was truly the last time I would see him.

HADES: Even in painful times, live with a smile. I want you to smile for me, too. That is my final wish.

HADES: Kusanagi. You can do that, right?

YUI: …Yes.

I squeezed my eyes shut and desperately tried to stop the tears. I thought of all our fun days together. The night we sat side by side and watched the stars. The times we spent talking and laughing. Those little things became irreplaceable memories, and I smiled naturally.

HADES: Thank you. Farewell.

When he said this, Hades, Lord of the Underworld, left the Garden.

The world of Greek myth. Far, far below the skies that Zeus rules… is the ruler of death, who lives underground. It is said that even today, a great number of the dead are still receiving his judgment…

HADES FATE ENDING 2: END

CHOOSE: Call out to Apollon

FATE ENDING 1: Sharing Hearts

YUI: Apollon-san.

I called his name to try to calm him down.

YUI: Please get ahold of yourself!

When I told him that, the look in his eyes changed.

MALICE OF THE DEAD: So you have come… Are you prepared for your happiness to be put to eternal rest?

Those eyes filled with evil intent were staring directly at Hades.

HADES: If it was possible, I would have wanted to find warmth like other people do and surround myself with it.

HADES: Even while thinking that, I could only choose solitude, due to the fear of hurting someone else.

HADES: But, I cannot allow anyone to become a sacrifice for you.

HADES: Even if I ran away from you, I would have to live with the guilt of sacrificing Apollon for all eternity.

HADES: The fewer people suffering, the better. Someone like you… could never understand how painful this decision is.

MALICE OF THE DEAD: Hehe, we don't want to understand… As long as you suffer, it's enough.

The curse laughed, as if truly pleased with itself.

APOLLON: …

From Apollon's mouth came a small voice. It tried to say something, but it was so quiet that it was nearly inaudible.

YUI: Apollon… san?

YUI: Is that Apollon-san…?

APOLLON: …Yes …It's me. Uncle… Hades… I…

He replied with a frail voice.

HADES: Did you lose hope, seeing that ugly side of me? I even thought of just letting you die. It's horrible.

APOLLON: I… understand… You must have been so lonely.

HADES: You… understand? What would you understand?

Hades trembled in surprise.

APOLLON: Everyone comes to my side. But that's because I'm the sun god… They only want my powers…

APOLLON: Nobody would look back at me for myself. Anyone can be a sun god as long as they have these powers… Or anything, it doesn't matter…

APOLLON: Of course, I also know that… compared to Uncle's loneliness, this is a kinder fate…

APOLLON: Even just that little bit of loneliness felt like it would tear my heart to pieces.

APOLLON: How much pain have you felt…? How long have you dealt with this…?

APOLLON: But even then, you're such a kind person, Uncle. Even though I'm Zeus's son, you smiled at me and treated me like someone important.

APOLLON: At least I can say I love you, Uncle… The time I spent with you here at this school had been so much fun…

Apollon's eyes shone faintly. The tears welling up in them reflected the moonlight.

HADES: …

APOLLON: So… I will bear the curse. Uncle, please become happy… That's my wish…

HADES: You…

Hades's voice shook.

HADES: How much of an idiot do you have to be?

HADES: You shouldn't be taking on misfortune… for someone as sordid as me.

HADES: I'm sorry. I gave my precious nephew some painful memories.

HADES: I've already made up my mind. I will continue to bear that sin.

This was Hades's decision.

APOLLON: If… If that's what you want, let's share it.

YUI: Huh…?

HADES: What do you mean?

APOLLON: It's too painful to have to bear the whole thing… So let's carry it together.

APOLLON: The burden doesn't just get lighter. I think, just from having someone there who understands your pain, the heart can be saved…

HADES: …You'll regret it.

APOLLON: I would definitely regret leaving the curse as it is right now… I understand it now.

A kind smile arose on Apollon's face. Though he was in such a painful situation, he seemed almost blissful.

HADES: …Thank you. This is no other idiot in this world who would say something like that…

Hades touched the back of Apollon's hand… the mark of the curse.

HADES: Can you hear me, you spineless curse? The god of the sun and the god of the Underworld will bear your grudge together.

HADES: Curse me… Curse us.

The mark shone black. Immediately, half of the markings on Apollon's hand disappeared cleanly. The marks on Hades's chest receded too.

HADES: Are you okay? Does it hurt anywhere?

Worried, Hades brushed Apollon's shoulders gently.

APOLLON: I'm fine. Thank you, Uncle. For taking half of it.

HADES: I should be the one thanking you. You don't know how much your words saved me… how much happiness I felt…

HADES: You've taken away my loneliness. Even the misfortune seems dear to me now. Thank you, Apollon.

The two of them smiled warmly at each other and shook hands.

DIONYSUS: Is it… over…?

TAKERU: Are you alright?!

The gods who were watching from afar ran up to Hades and Apollon.

APOLLON: Sorry for making you worry! I made you all worry about me. I'm sorry.

TAKERU: Don't worry about it! As long as you're feeling better.

DIONYSUS: I’m glad it worked out.

DIONYSUS: This is the first time I’ve seen you look so happy.

HADES: Sorry to worry you. You’ve taken good care of me.

DIONYSUS: There’s no need to thank me. Anyway, good job, Apollon! I was moved!

DIONYSUS: Is there anything you want to do? I’ll listen to any request right now.

APOLLON: Really? Is it really okay? Let’s go see the stars, together with everyone. I want to commemorate this!

HADES: But, if we go, it might rain…

YUI: If that’s the case…

I thought of something and opened my mouth to speak.

YUI: Let’s build a planetarium. Then we won’t have to worry about rain.

HADES: That’s not a bad idea.

Hades smiled brightly.

BACKGROUND: PLAINS

The club members sat together on the quiet evening meadow. The stars were shining prettily in the sky.

TAKERU: Amazing…!

DIONYSUS: Yeah, so pretty… and just as I say that, it’s getting cloudy!

Rain had already started to fall in the forest. It was a complete downpour.

DIONYSUS: So is this your power…?

HADES: Sorry about this. Let’s give up for now.

APOLLON: Okay okay, let’s go back before the rain gets to us. Let’s have a race, a race! Start running!

At Apollon’s signal, we all started to run.

HADES: They’re all so lively. Are you okay not running?

YUI: Hades-san, run with us! Aren't we friends? You're not alone anymore, you know!

When I offered a hand to him, Hades took it.

HADES: Right! It's not bad to run sometimes!

YUI: Yes!

Under the starry sky that was slowly being covered in clouds, we ran faster than the rain could fall. In such an absurd situation, everyone was smiling. There's only a little bit of time before graduation… We astronomy club members stargazed until we were exhausted, studied until our heads felt like they could burst… and enjoyed the stars to our hearts' content. As long as you're not alone, you can withstand any darkness. Even misfortune can change for the better.

…We all truly believed it.

HADES FATE ENDING 1: END