

It was another boring morning in Gensokyo as the birds chirped and the cicadas buzzed around the Yakumo Household. A loud snoring sound echoes through out the manor of changing sizes, indicating that it's master is still sound asleep. The master of the manor is lazily holding onto a rift in the fabric of space, treating it like a huggable pillow as she smacks her lips before rolling over. This is none other than Yukari Yakumo, the Youkai of Gaps and one of the sages of Gensokyo. At least one of the only active ones. Kasen is living her life as a hermit in some pocket dimension that Yukari never cared to learn the location of, while Okina is being Okina and simply abandoned Gensokyo for the time being so that she can make her "triumphant return". The other sages' whereabouts are unknown to Yukari, but she doesn't really care about them. They all never got along to begin with. With Yukari being the only sage that's still around, one would assume that she would be ruling over Gensokyo with an iron fist. But as one can tell with her lazy form hugging the gap, it's quite the opposite. She's always been more contempt in letting Gensokyo run itself, only intervening when she really has to, which hasn't been for a long while. But this is the sort of lifestyle she loves to live. A carefree and easy going one devoid of any hardships and pain, with a few pranks along the way too.

Unfortunately, Yukari's beauty sleep will be interrupted by her most loyal shikigami, Ran Yakumo, rushing into her room in a panic, slamming open the door. "Master! I apologize for barging in, but this is important!" Ran says, giving a small bow towards Yukari as her fox ears twitch softly.

Yukari lets out a small yawn as she rubs the sleep out of her eyes, sitting up from her futon as the gap that was in her arms disappear. "This better be important Ran. I was in the middle of a good dream." Yukari grumbles as she gestures with her hand to get Ran to talk.

"I'm sorry master, but I have important news to tell you! The new Hakurei Shrine maiden is being sworn in today! I just found out as I was doing my regular run throughs the Human Village. Apparently, they don't want to wait any longer and are going to do it right now!" Ran tells her master all in one breath.

"Breathe Ran." Yukari tells her, to try to get the Shikigami to calm down. As Ran takes deep breaths in an attempt to recollect herself, Yukari ponders over the past events. *'The previous Hakurei Shrine Maiden died in duty not too long ago. Though that doesn't fully surprise me. She's always been more of a brawler which isn't the best idea when it comes to facing powerful youkai who can shrug off hits like they're nothing. At least she was able to take that youkai down with her.'* Yukari hums, remembering the late shrine maiden. Yukari never really cared much for her, only keeping in contact with her for the sake of the Hakurei Barrier and nothing more. It's always been Yukari's job to keep in close contact with the Hakurei Shrine Maiden, their two jobs overlap so often that they might as well have the same duty, but Yukari can't recall any standout Shrine Maidens besides the first one that helped create the barrier that protects all of Gensokyo. Yukari gives a sigh, knowing that there's no use on dwelling within the past. She should only focus on the now. *'I'm more surprised that the humans were able to find a new maiden to take the role without my help, and so quickly too. Though we did go ten years without a maiden once, so perhaps that's why the humans were so eager to find a new one.'*

Giving a small sigh, Yukari opens up a gap beneath her and falls through it. She soon reappears right next to Ran, wearing her work clothes which consisted of a white dress with plenty of frills near the bottom, a purple tabard that had the Yin Yang emblem near the bottom, her signature white mob cap

and brown boots. "Go fetch my parasol Ran and let's get going. I would prefer to get this done rather quickly." Yukari says as she opens up a gap that led to the Hakurei Shrine. Ran dashes off to pick up her master's parasol before returning and handing it over to her. Yukari grabs the parasol and taps it on the ground a bit before holding it in the air. "Were you able to get the new maiden's name?"

"Yes, I was Master. Her name is Reimu Sa-" Ran responded before getting cut off.

"Both you and I know that her family name is irrelevant when she gets sworn in as the Hakurei Shrine maiden. But Reimu huh? An interesting name to say the least." Yukari says as she opens up her parasol and holds it over her shoulder, walking into the gap.

Upon exiting from the other side, Yukari and Ran would walk out, the gap closing behind them as a small crowd of humans gather around the shrine. Thankfully, they didn't notice her or else there would be a stir of chaos which could attract some more deadly youkai. The sky above the shrine was dark and cloudy indicating that rain will inevitably pour down. Yukari towers above the other humans, having always been tall, even in her youth so standing in the back and not seeing anything isn't an issue for her. In front of her she sees a young brown-haired girl who appears to be no more than ten years old. Her Miko outfit barely fits her as her hands were concealed by the long sleeves. Her pant legs were so long that there would be no doubt that she would trip on them sooner or later. She had tied her hair into a small ponytail with a large white bow. This is the youngest any Hakurei Shrine maiden has been. The first thought that crossed Yukari's mind is that she will not last long. That large white bow she wears will be stained with blood soon.

Yukari gives a sigh as she watches the ceremony taking place. The Shinto priest had to kneel down so that he was face level with the young child. "Do you, young child vow to allow our goddess of the Hakurei Shrine into your heart and serve her for as long as you may live?" He asks.

Reimu gives an affirmative nod as she looks at the man with determination. "I do!"

"Do you vow to protect our land of Gensokyo from any threats that may ail it and help maintain the Great Hakurei Barrier that our Goddess created for us?" He says.

Yukari gives a small scoff. "Typical of a human to ignore the hard work of a youkai and a Goddess."

Reimu gives another nod, this one more enthusiastic than the last. "I do! I will protect the land and all it's people!"

The priest gives a smile and stands up, giving her a small bow before placing his hand on the top of her head. "Then I bestow upon you the name of our Goddess so that you may join her family and protect the land. Reimu Hakurei, our shrine maiden of paradise." He announces towards the crowd.

"Reimu Hakurei, our shrine maiden of paradise." The crowd responds, bowing twice and then clapping their hands twice.

Reimu walks up to the Shrine and bows deeply twice, then clapping her hands twice as well. She stands still for just a moment as she prays towards the goddess of the shrine. Once she was done with her prayer she gives one final bow before looking at the crowd. Reimu couldn't help but spot Yukari and Ran in the distance as the two stick out quite easily. She blinks her eyes briefly and before she knew, the

two of them were gone, confusing the young shrine maiden before figuring that she was just seeing things.

Upon arrival back to the Yakumo household, Yukari holds her parasol out to Ran, silently telling her to put it away. Ran does so leaving quickly before returning. "Master, I'm not sure if it's my place to judge but didn't the new shrine maiden seem to be--"

"Young? Yes, she was. Too young in fact. I have no doubt the humans of the village came upon the first young girl they saw and forced her into this position." Yukari comments, disappointed in how little they care for life that didn't concern them. Even she cares a little bit about others, and she's known for being cold and heartless.

Yukari gives a small sigh as she opens up a gap, tossing her mob cap through it before pulling out a tea set and bringing it to the table they had nearby. Yukari motions towards Ran to sit down to have some tea with her. Ran bows to Yukari and sits down as the older blonde pours the kitsune a cup of green tea. "I'm a bit concerned master. This one isn't going to last long. She will most likely die during her first incident. Not even Tamatsukuri san's Yin Yang orbs will be of help to her if she can't catch them properly."

"I know that Ran. Which is why starting tomorrow, I want you to go ahead and start looking for a new Hakurei Shrine maiden. I have zero faith in this one." Yukari commands, taking a sip of her tea.

Ran gives a bow and responds, "Yes Master." Before taking another sip of her tea.

"Good. Now after you're finished with your tea, attend to your chores. I have my own matters to attend to." Yukari says as she opens a gap behind her. Ran gives another bow towards Yukari before the gap envelopes the youkai. Yukari falls through the void of the gaps and floats peacefully, always finding the atmosphere to be quite relaxing. The piercing red eyes stare at Yukari within the purple void before wondering their gaze somewhere else. Yukari casually floats through the void as she finds a small piece of land floating within, containing what appears to be a chunk of land from Central Park in New York City. She should really visit there again and check in on how the humans are developing.

She sits down on the park bench, a large cherry tree standing over her as the sounds of the leaves rustling within the void fills her ears. She opens a gap in front of her, reaches into it and pulls out a small cup of sake for her to sip gently. She figures that she might as well check up on the young girl so, she decides to open up a small portal in front of her. She looks into the gap and watches carefully. Before her she hears the familiar sound of rain pattering on the roof of the shrine as the young girl curiously walks around what would be her new home, the floorboards creaking with every step.

She seems to be a bit confused on what she should do now. It doesn't surprise Yukari that the priest wouldn't tell her all of her duties. But she will know what to do within due time. Reimu looks around as she sits down on the floor, taking a sip of tea that she was carrying. She then turns her attention towards Yukari, or more so the gap that Yukari was watching Reimu through. Reimu gives a small sigh and says "I could've sworn that someone was watching me."

A small smile creeps onto Yukari's face as this girl appears to be more than Yukari thought at first. "Oh? Now this is interesting. Is she able to sense my gaps? Perhaps she has some potential yet. I was too quick to judge, this one will prove to be quite entertaining to watch."