

Reimu was sweeping aside Sakura petals that fell onto the stone walkway that led to her shrine, giving a sigh. "As beautiful as they are, I absolutely hate cleaning up after them." She grumbles, focusing on her work.

"What, the Sakura petals? Or the parties that you have with youkai like Yukarin?"

Reimu quickly turns around and spots Yuyuko sitting on the steps to her shrine, drinking some tea. She must have been so distracted with her work that she failed to notice Yuyuko ever arriving in the first place. "When did you get here?" She asks, sighing as she went back to work.

"Yukarin dropped me off here. She had some errands to run before we had our picnic. You do remember that we were having one today, correct?" Yuyuko asks with a raised eyebrow.

"Huh? Yeah, I remembered, that's why I was cleaning up the place." Reimu lied. She clearly forgot about Yukari inviting her to a picnic, as well as hosting the event. Thankfully, if her memory serves her right, Ran was doing all the cooking, so thankfully Reimu wasn't caught unprepared.

"Mhm. Good." Yuyuko smiles, clearly seeing through Reimu's lie. She's friends with Yukari, so she should know what a lie looks like a mile away. "Though whether you remembered or not isn't important. What's important is that we have a fun time at our picnic and enjoy the beautiful Sakura petals." Yuyuko sighs, putting down her now empty cup of tea as she looks at them.

"Yeah..." Reimu mutters as she sweeps.

"You know, the Sakura petals of the Saigyou Ayakashi are actually the individual souls that the youkai has consumed. For every soul it consumes, a new Sakura bloom appears. Considering how big it is, that's a lot of souls it's consumed. I wonder if it's consumed any of the souls of people that I knew from my past life." Yuyuko ponders aloud.

"Most likely. That thing was dangerous and could've easily drained the souls of the entirety of the Netherworld, perhaps even beyond." Reimu responds, catching a sakura petal in her hand.

"Quite. Such a shame that it had to be sealed. It didn't know any better. It was merely trying to survive as most plant life does. Feeding on souls and having them bloom, only for the petals to fall like beautiful danmaku." Yuyuko sighs, wishing that she was able to just once see that great tree bloom.

"Well, you better not wake it up again, or else I'm just going have to kick your ass again." Reimu says with no hint of remorse.

"Oh don't you worry about that Reimu. I have no intention on waking it up again. I'm simply lamenting on a sight that I will never be able to see."

The two continue to sit in silence before Yuyuko breaks it up once again. "You know, I find it funny. I'm able to eat souls, yet the people never suffer for it. I could eat their soul right in front of them and they would walk off happily, almost as if their soul was replenished."

"Well yeah, most living things are able to persist without a soul. They get replenished very quickly, even the soul of a youkai can regenerate from a mere concept. That's what spellcards are in fact. Spellcards are us attacking with our soul to show our true beauty. Of course, when we make a

spellcard, we're naming our soul as a certain concept, like when I use Fantasy Heaven. I've named my soul out of the beauty of Fantasy." Reimu says, showing her knowledge of the spellcards that she helped design alongside Yukari.

Yuyuko giggles, pleased to know that Reimu still remembers. "Well, I expected you to know that as you did help Yukari create the spellcard rules in the first place. Though I wonder if it's only those who have been to Gensokyo are able to live without a soul."

Reimu shrugs her shoulders as she puts her broom away, finally done with sweeping the pathway. "Eh who the hell knows. There are plenty of religions that discuss this stuff. I'm knowledgeable, but not to the same extent of Yukari. I swear, it feels like everything that happens in Gensokyo happens for a specific reason, and considering that the old hag helped make it, I can't help but wonder if some kind of event in her past influenced her to allow people to live without their souls." Reimu ponders before sighing, knowing that she will never find the answer. That damn youkai is too secretive about her personal life. She just wishes that she could open up some more. As much as Reimu hates to admit it, she truly does care for her mother figure. She wants to be able to let her give a genuine smile for once as a way to say thanks for everything that Yukari has done for her.

Before Reimu could ponder on her thoughts any longer, the all too familiar sound of reality tearing apart rings through the shrine maiden's ears as Yukari walks out of a gap. "Hello my lovelies, I apologize for the wait. I was trying to invite a good friend of mine to our little picnic, but she refused. Such a shame too, I would've loved to introduce you two to her." Yukari shrugs before having Ran set up the picnic cloth and basket. "Anyways, shall we start our little picnic, hm?"