

It was a bottomless pit where never-ending darkness captures. Here I am, like every other day, staring at the land of the dead. I guard the underworld and watch sinful souls suffer in a lake of fires burning eternally. Will there be an end to this? Do I really belong here? Being claimed as the symbol of loyalty, I work under the hands of the devil, repeating the same routine again and again with no domination of my own life. “Everything is ending today”, I told myself.

It was this time of the month when my owner, the god of the underworld, Hades, patrols the mortal world to collect omissions of sinful souls. I got rid of my chain leash with my tail and lightened my footsteps following after Hades. I stood in front of the gateway after seeing him leave, now I'm one step away from freedom.

The discomfort and uneasiness were intolerable, dizziness crawled into my head like millions of parasites, I laid my steps on this city as I totter around. “Where is this? Is this the world of mortals?” I wondered. I couldn't open my eyes under the attack of the yellow burning ball of radiant gases, it was poison to my eyes and I could barely see anything. This was the only thing that makes me prefer living in the underworld. Yet there's no return anymore, my bolt of freedom from being guarding hounds of hell and being controlled under the hands of the devil has just begun, as I succeed to plant myself in between these immense, compacted, rectangular blocks of rocks with rectangular eyes all over them. I escaped from being the underdog of hell, stepping into a new world.

“Grrrrrrr,” I growled in evil. Evil is what I learned since I had memories, being conscious of all surroundings and being a part of an unholy alliance. While I wander between fast-walking mortals all around, my job came up to me like a natural instinct. On this side of the world, only people with sins could notice my existence. My eyes turned bright and almost red, with my body black as coal and a smell of burning brimstone, I seemed to seek attention from an adolescent across the roads stealing drinks from a food truck. I ran to him as fast as I could, leaving behind a burned area wherever I stepped. It took him a while to react to this sudden act and in the next second, I see him bleeding beneath me as I sink my teeth into his neck. This is what I am used to doing every day, I was taught to become a nightmare for everyone, grew up with censures as breakfast, and I take my job to send all people with a den of iniquity to hell.

I watched him struggle for a few seconds and slowly stepped on his soul to send them to where they belonged. What I didn’t notice was, while my span of time in the mortal world gets longer, my body is no longer in spiritual form but instead starting to appear in both sinful and non-sinful mortal eyes. The more I see the fear in their eyes, the more I see the sin in them. Some ran away as quickly as possible and some stayed thinking that they could compete with me. Yet I am the guardian of the underworld, the underestimation of mortals is now leading them to lose their lives one by one all under my claws. It only takes a blink of an eye for me to look through the crime they had made and turn them into their blood that is bleeding out at the moment. Gluttony, lust, greed, pride, wrath, sloth and envy, I catch them like butterflies, as easy as light.

A loud crying voice catches my attention precipitously, I stopped my killing for a moment and turned my head to where the voice came from. I see the soul of a little girl I took but left behind, her soul was..... painful. I could hear the aggrieved and grievance in her voice. What was her sin again? I forgot. Was it her greed for the new arrival toys? Or was it the temptation I see in her natural instinct? I killed way more than I could remember. There I stood in the wind, it blows my head and awakens me.

All of a sudden, there are metal bars blocking in front of me, I tried to turn back but all that was waiting for me was the cold and freezing texture of metals behind and beside me. I barked and I growled in pain as I had never been captured like a primitive creature. "How dare these sinful mortals!" I thought with torture. No matter how hard I struggled, the trap was getting smaller and smaller to the extent that I can barely move any inch of my body. In this exact position, I was brought on a massive moving metal box with rounded rubbers that bring them forward, I had no time to figure out what is this and where I am.

As the door closes, silence and darkness arrive. I couldn't move nor could I hear anything but a deep panting voice in the dark. I kept silent. Soon, the voice in the darkness speaks, "Now what's your crime, little dog?"

I wanted to explain how this was my job, but the only sound I could make was a little bark. "Don't worry about explaining, we're equally sinful" the voice replied with a low laugh.

I was confused as I continued to listen. "We are all sinful, yes, all of us." he signed, "I killed all the street cats in my neighbourhood because they were annoying, but I saved my neighbour's son today from drowning, am I evil or am I not?"

I can see all his crimes while his regrets cover up none of it, if I wasn't locked up, he would have been dead by now. However, it was until I looked out the window from the metal moving box, to understand what he meant. I could hear the risings and fallings of a conversation being held on a porch near the corner, chatting and yapping and playing and shrieking, a lively scenario that I had never come up to in the underworld. The smiles and waves of laughter were incessant, an old lady was tripped over by a homeless, but forgiveness floods over the anger that I thought it would follow. As long as I don't look into the deepest sins the mortals wanted to hide, I could see a picture with only goods.

I remember the last words he left before he was sent to be censured by mortal rules, being locked behind a metal bar. "Good and evil coexist within one person, good people are just people that resist being captivated by evil," he said. I knew he was a criminal, but I set him free. I could never abandon the inherent evil in me, but I will no longer return under the arms of the devil, there I set myself free.