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ShatterSoul team

ShatterSoul Story Description

The main character in ShatterSoul is Karm, a 24 year old college graduate. As the story begins, Karm lands the high paying job that he'd been dreaming of since he was a kid. After all his past struggles, it seems that life is finally going his way. To celebrate his great achievement, he takes some buddies out to the bar and shows off his new wealth by paying for their drinks. Unfortunately, as Karm heads home he is tragically struck by a drunk driver.

Both Karm and the driver die in the accident, and their souls are transported to the gates of the afterlife, known as YamLok. The Gatekeeper of YamLok informs them of their deaths and tells them what to do next - follow the road that leads to Destiny's Destination and let the gods decide the fate of their souls.

Karm gets angry at the driver that killed him despite the fact that they both are already dead. Karm tells him how important it was for him to live, since he was the eldest in his poor family, though his true motives are more personal. The driver apologizes, but explains that there is no point in fighting now, and that it is right for the gods to judge their souls. The driver accepts his fate and follows the gatekeeper's instruction, urging Karm to do so as well. Karm rejects the advice, and decides to look around YamLok for a way back.

Mr Nag, a 'Half-Soul' finds Karm and explains that he knows how to return to Earth. However, he cannot go to Earth because the gods have bound him to YamLok against his will. He does offer to share the information with Karm though, but only in exchange for recovering the parts of his soul that have been scattered through the spirit realms. He agrees to lead both of them out of YamLok once he is complete again. He then tells Karm that he will need an ancient artifact known as the Soul-Splitter to collect the pieces of his soul. He tells Karm that it is currently held by the Gatekeeper.

Karm easily manages to steal the Soul-Splitter, getting nothing more than an ominous warning from the Gatekeeper. He realizes that the fact that Karm was able to move the Soul-Splitter at all means that it had some purpose for him. The Gatekeeper tells Karm that he may return it whenever

he wants, but that it will probably be the Soul-Splitter that makes the decision of when that is. Karm takes it, and goes back to Mr. Nag who tells him about YamLok and the different areas where the fragments are kept. He warns Karm of the different Soul-Eaters, called Anti-Souls, lurking in the various areas and guarding the fragments.

Karm then travels through the different areas of YamLok capturing each fragment and defeating or avoiding the various Anti-Souls. Each area has a Soul Guardian who protects the fragments. Initially, these Soul Guardians look like normal demons, but they soon lose their evil image. The second guardian, who looks like an angel, explains that the fragments are dangerous and must not be released into the world. Karm is uneasy about destroying the angel, but takes her refusal to hand over the fragment as a rejection of his righteous quest to return to Earth. After returning to Mr. Nag, he asks him why the fragments of his soul are so meaningful. Mr. Nag explains that it's the gods' way of binding him, but dodges the question of why he was so thoroughly bound.

After defeating a few more guardians, Karm comes across one guardian that seems to have a control over his ability to split. The guardian can break Karm into different souls and move them around so he has trouble staying together. When the guardian is defeated, he reveals that he was sent on the same quest by Mr. Nag over one thousand year ago. He also shows Karm that shadows are gathering around his soul and tells him to be careful. Karm returns to Mr. Nag and mentions that he saw something odd with his soul. Mr. Nag agrees that there is a corrupting effect to the shards and agrees to purge the fragments if he hands them over. Karm warily hands them over and feels better, but also feels that part of the shadows still reside in him.

As Karm defeats more guardians he becomes more and more paranoid about the darkening of his other soul, which he frequently inspects. However, as the shadows take effect, he turns his suspicions upon Mr. Nag whom he believes to be hoarding the fragments for some nefarious purpose. When Karm goes to defeat a particularly nasty looking guardian, the guardian remarks that they are both alike in that they are seeking power in the lost fragments. Karm disagrees, but the guardian continues, explaining how the fragments are powerful, and points out that no one would tolerate their corruption without there being some reason.

Now sufficiently disturbed, Karm challenges Mr. Nag to reveal his true motives. Mr. Nag agrees

and explains that he was once a powerful god, but that he was chained there by the other gods for helping mortals escape the clutches of death. He says that he chose Karm to join him in YamLok because he was the only one that could merge the broken parts of his soul together. He also explains that the fragments are very powerful, and have been corrupted over time to become evil. Only with Karm's help can he become the good God he was and rise up against the other gods.

With his fear not at all relieved, Karm agrees to capture the remaining fragments, but chooses to hold some of them back in his own soul until he can be sure of Mr. Nag's intentions. After collecting the last fragment, he returns to Mr. Nag and asks him for the secret to returning to Earth. Mr. Nag begins to explain the secret as he arranges the fragments, but stops when he realizes that he doesn't have all of them. Looking at Karm, he notices the tainted aura around him and draws the remaining fragments from Karm along with half of his soul. Karm is weakened and falls to the ground as the evil part of his soul flows toward Mr. Nag.

Mr. Nag extracts the remaining fragments and explains that he is not a god, but the victim of a vicious curse. At the beginning of time, the original god struck down an angel who desired too much power. However, he couldn't just banish the angel because of the holy power still in the angel's command. Instead, he created the Soul-Splitter to recover the good parts of the angel's soul and to banish the bad parts. The Soul-Splitter did its job, but the angel's evil managed to cripple the original god, forcing him to hide away and recover. Afterwards, the fallen angel began looking for a way to salvage the scraps of his soul. The other angels figured he was powerless and decided to leave him to rot while they worked on what to do now that their leader was gone.

Eventually, the fallen angel had an idea to return to his previous form. He descended to YamLok and sought out one who could be persuaded to sacrifice part of their soul. Upon finding a person who wished to return to Earth, he tricked them out of half of their soul and departed to rebuild his strength. Since this time, nothing has been heard from the fallen angel or the old god; but the curse continues to be passed on from half-soul to half-soul. Mr. Nag then explains that he intends to break this cycle and Karm momentarily looks hopeful. Seeing this reaction Mr. Nag laughs at him for thinking he meant to spare Karm's soul. Mr. Nag explains that he has no use for Karm's soul because he has recovered the evil soul of the fallen angel, but shatters Karm's soul anyway. Finally, Mr. Nag begins to destroy all of Karm because he knows Mr. Nag's secret, but is prevented when the holy part

of the fallen angel's soul joins with Karm.

Karm is transported away from YamLok to the abode of the old god. The old god explains that Mr. Nag and the soul guardians are merely the remains of the original angels who had decided to fight for their own personal power. The infighting between them had kept them mostly harmless and inert since her left them, but with the fragments of the fallen angel's soul reunited, Mr. Nag has to be defeated. The old god says that they need to recruit the help of the remaining good angels if they are to succeed. Karm is sent out on a number of missions to recover the good angels before the final confrontation with Mr. Nag.

After Karm has collected all of the remaining angels, the old god absorbs them and empowers Karm. Shocked by the sacrifice of the good angels, Karm demands to know why they were killed. The old god explains that it wasn't the fallen angel, but he that stole the first half soul in YamLok. After taking it, he realized that the absorption of others was the only way to recover his power and truly destroy evil. Karm objects, tired of being duped, but changes his mind when he see the drunk driver manifest from the body of the old god. The driver explains that he was asked to sacrifice himself to bring Karm to the afterlife and win the battle for good. He also tells Karm that he has found peace among the greater soul of the old god. Hearing this testimony, Karm partially forgives the driver and agrees to fight for the old god.

Karm battles and defeats Mr. Nag. Afterwards, the old god destroys the evil part of Mr. Nag's soul and absorbs Mr. Nag into himself. The old god then tells Karm that he will absorb him as well after his sacrifices for good. However, Karm begs him to return him to Earth for at least a normal human life span. The old god agrees, though he mentions that we must all join him at some point. Karm is then returned to Earth, but before he goes back, he is allowed to decide the fate of the Soul-Splitter. If Karm destroys the Soul-Splitter, the old god eventually absorbs all of the world's souls and then collapses into small point of light. Immediately afterwards, the point of light explodes and creates a new universe. If Karm convinces the old god to preserve the Soul-Splitter, the old god will eventually use it to purge the world of evil and speed up the absorption process. This leads to the fracturing of the afterlife into a zone of absolute evil and a zone of absolute good. Finally, if Karm decides to steal the Soul-Splitter, he will live out his life on Earth as a demi-god, tricking others for both personal amusement and the greater good of humanity. Upon his death, he will ascend to join the old god as a

trickster god.

Elements

Most of the narrative elements in the story are based on Hindu and Christian mythology. YamLok, is the abode of the God Yama, the God of Death. Nag, in Hindi means snake, which highlights the deceptive nature of the character. Karm in Hindi means 'action' or 'deed'. The point of the story is that one must perform good actions or deeds without worrying about their effects.

The fallen angel is based on the character of Lucifer, who became the devil after failing to overthrow the Christian god. The old god is a mix of the Christian god (at the beginning of his life), and the concepts of reincarnation and merging with the divine (at the time of the game). The plurality of gods is taken from Hindu mythology with the original form of those gods (angels) being taken from Christian mythology. The three game endings are derived from the big bang, Christian heaven and hell, and the Hindu god Krishna respectively.