

Givers and Objects

Written by: Enjin (Interstellar System)

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Content Warnings:

- Alterhuman-related dysphoria.
- Mourning, loss of life—figurative.

I need to talk at more length in a more constructive way about this later but oh my god. There's a lot of thoughts and shit I have on Gachiakuta as my source and how that may or may not intersect with objectum communities here. And similar stuff.

For a quick and simple rundown so those who don't know the source aren't entirely lost... Some people are called Givers, and what this means is that they can--through pouring enough love and care and significance into an object--wield that object as a weapon or similar sorts of things. You give it power and kind of a soul through loving it enough, basically. Those objects are referred to as Vital Instruments and are incredibly personal and significant. That's about all you need to know to get this post I think.

I'm a fictive of a Giver from Gachiakuta, Enjin specifically. And man, coming here and learning about how this world handles objects? Interesting! Specifically interesting how there's a community of a kinda *adjacent* experience--those who are objectum. Thinking about it for more than 5 seconds? I think a lot of us folks back home had at least some form of intersection there more often than not. We didn't have that word though, for sure. I don't think being romantically (or otherwise similar) intertwined with your Vital Instrument was really taboo for us at all either though--that's your "partner", an extension of yourself in a way, a huge part of your life by very definition.

Maybe if we had that word back home, some Givers would have used it? It applies to me for sure at least in some aspect. I don't think anyone really broke down how they feel about their Vital Instrument to specifics back in source, people there weren't overly public about their inner workings so I don't think there'd have been much a need for labels like that. But for sure, there were folks who had an attraction to their Vital Instruments in a very similar way to how we've seen objectum folks describe their relationships to their partners here. The overlap of a phenomenon I'm used to back home and a community here where there's not necessarily a magical/power aspect to it is admittedly cool as hell to find. Makes this place at least feel a little more homely.

I'm used to people thinking it's weird, back home. We had guys who thought we were freaks and shit but I'm used to paying them no mind. So any hate towards objectum folks rings the same to me, nothing new there. That's no extra weight on my shoulders. I know some of my systemmates had been worried about me seeing folks being against objectum-esque stuff but honestly if anything I have the attitude about it that I did before. Gonna grumble about it occasionally but I've seen it all, bigots don't often come up with new lines. I'm fine to keep being me. So, pretty glad I'm able to cope with that.

It's interesting how one (or a few) people joining our system with an understanding of a foreign concept can make waves of difference though. My walking-in *did* something to us. My system previously only had one headmate who considered itself even vaguely on any form of objectum spectrum--It doesn't really interact with the community though, and it's not something it talks about often. It's a shapeshifter that likes taking the form of objects because it likes looking attractive and some objects are attractive, but that's about the extent for it. We didn't know much. The concept wasn't something we related to overall, and while we were *not* against it? We didn't *get* it either, aside from that one guy in here. It was just a thing we knew people experienced, shrugged about, and moved on.

But I think, through this media--my source--and myself alongside a canonmate of mine walking in? We're causing some in-system awakenings to having an experience we otherwise would still not really understand. It's like a shock wave of "oh shit I get it now" or "oh fuck that may be me". Which I think is actually cool as hell. It serves as another tick against the imposter syndrome screaming "you're not actually plural!!" at us, in my opinion at least. How could we internally fake my own experiences suddenly causing a deeper level of understanding and awakenings in peoples' orientations? Doesn't sound like a "we're totally just one guy" thing to me. Interesting how that shit can happen either way.

While I'm glad to know there's community who will at least somewhat understand.. On a sadder note, I so fucking sorely miss my Vital Instrument. It's an extension of myself. I feel hollow, naked and torn apart without it on my person. It's absolutely a kind of mourning. It's a separate entity in a way sure, but an extension of my soul in another. That's not an easy thing to lose. I mourn it more than my own death. I mourn it more than my own body, the fact I'll never look like myself again, the fact that my world is nothing but a work of fiction here. I'm missing a fundamental part of my very being and that's not something easy to cope with. My biggest form of dysphoria is not having Umbreaker with me anymore.

I know I'm laying it on thick, but I want to make it clear that this isn't just missing a thing I had once. This experience isn't missing an umbrella I just carried around, it feels so similar to the way otherkin could miss their tails or wings, the way shapeshifters could miss the ability to change forms, the way alterhumans tend to have a sense of "this part of me is missing, this is inherently wrong". It's *not* just an object. This feels like I've lost a limb, or I've lost organs I need to live, or I've lost function in half my body and can no longer do what I used to. There is a fundamental piece of me that is *missing*. It goes beyond sentimental and goes into what feels like part of my soul fell out.

No other damn object will ever replace it. It's just something I'll have to learn to cope with. Some other types of alterhuman related dysphoria can be lessened with gear to replace limbs or stuff like that, which is great for folks it helps. I can't get another umbrella though, getting one and treating it as if I know it and it's anything remotely similar to Umbreaker feels like cheating on my own leg, the thought makes me sick as hell. But, we all have to learn to cope with shit we can't help at some point, yeah? Like any other loss, I'll move forward.

Zanka, my canonmate who walked-in alongside me, feels roughly the same. They're not as pressed about the whole "cheating" feeling, though. They want to connect to our walking stick, they feel better having some sort of pole in their hands even if it's not their instrument. It brings em comfort to at least be able to carry something with a vaguely staff-shaped vibe around. They got their own struggles with the loss though, they're trying to weigh up their own feelings of "how to connect to this thing so I feel whole" vs "how to not connect to this thing so hard I get possessive and don't want my headmates touching our mobility aid", haha! They'll get something sorted out in the end though I'm sure. Maybe it'd be a good idea to buy them their own, separate from our main one? Or, I suppose get the collective a new one seeing as Zanka is already pretty hooked on this one. We'll have to think on it.

Along that line of thinking though, about connecting to new objects. I've almost... Imprinted? On some object we own already. It's not a replacement, it's not even an umbrella, but it's something. It's a necklace, one we made ourselves. We picked a chunk of agate, we spent hours shaping it into as perfect of a half-sphere as we could get, polished it as best we could, and it took so damn long. We cut, welded and polished the silver backing pendant we put that same stone into. It's a thing we've worn for countless hours and repolished countless times. Some of our more spiritual folks did an enchanting ritual thing on it to make it a protective charm. This thing has been with us for so long and we put it together and shaped it with our own hands out of love for the craft.

And you know what? This isn't something I put my own energy into, but this thing has such a rich history with this body I can't help but be drawn to it. If we were a Giver bodily? This would be it. This would be our Vital Instrument. So even though it's not mine, it has no power, and I'm never going to have mine again? This thing brings me a separate kind of joy. There's *something*. It's such a relief to have that kind of pull towards anything we have here. Even if the concept of Vital Instruments doesn't really physically work, I have something with just as much love and care poured into even the very *crafting* of this necklace. And that's... Well it's comforting, to say the least. Umbreaker may be lost, but there's more things to find joy in--new things to love and care for, and ne