Rating:	Teen And Up Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	Gen
Fandom:	Hermitcraft RPF
Character:	ZedaphPlays, EthosLab (Video Blogging RPF), Goatman, Renbob, Mentions Worm Man
Additional Tags:	illicit substance use mentioned, but they weren't taken during the fic, also either Zed and Etho are really brave or really stupid this is going off Ren and Docs' season 8 ending
Language:	English
Collections:	Hermit Apocalypse Stories, Moon Apocalypse
Stats:	Published: 2022-01-05 Words: 1,441 Chapters: 1/1

Ponder The Orb

by Adamnedusername

Summary

Zed and Etho look at surreal memes as the moon comes closer to the planet, and Goatman tries to save them.

Notes

Fun fact, I used actual surreal memes for the segment where Zed and Etho look at surreal memes.

Here are the links.

https://www.reddit.com/r/surrealmemes/comments/qydjx7/embrace_the_monsters/

https://www.reddit.com/r/surrealmemes/comments/rb21nx/he_ponder/

It's the end of the world as the Hermits knew it. Most of them had left long ago as the moon sped closer and closer to the planet, burning the sky and making it a fiery red while making itself glow like a molten white.

Zed looked up to the sky in his Santa suit as he sat on top of the egg while Etho sat further down. Everything around the egg started to smell heavily of burnt gunpowder, almost so heavy the two started coughing. He looked down at Etho. "It's weird. I never thought the moon would smell like

a million creepers going off in one place."

"Well it smells like gunpowder, so it wouldn't surprise me that it'd start smelling like burnt gunpowder as the moon entered the atmosphere," then a thought came to Etho. "Wait a minute, weren't you a scientist this season? How did you not know this?"

"This season was more experimental, so I decided to be a scientist more to experiment on other Hermits," Zed sheepishly rubbed the back of his neck with his hand while casually looking to Etho.

Etho just shrugged. "Makes sense. So what do you wanna do?"

Zed just pulled out his phone. "You wanna look at surreal memes?"

~~~~~~

Aboard the mighty Hermethius, Renbob was furiously typing away at the keyboard as his eyes darted across the screen.

"Boatum,"

As soon as he typed their names in, the screen text turned green and the lights above their cryo chambers flashed on as they materialized inside.

"Iskall, Tango, Stress, Bdubs…. Oh no man!"

Goatman turned away from the chambers and focused on Bob. "What is wrong?" he said in a deep, gravelly voice.

Renbob's eyes were as wide as they could get from terror, and he was shaking. Goatman has seen him operate that computer to send Ren and Doc messages while being under the influence of 3 different illicit substances at once, and seeing as they were able to kick off the final program, he had to assume Bob did a great job, so he can't be screwing the code up because of nerves. "I don't know man. For some reason, I can't pull Etho and Zedaph back in. I don't know what's up with this computer man. It got everyone else no problem."

Goatman turned back around to look at the chambers, and sure enough Etho and Zeds' were empty. He had to think.

Going into the simulation was a risk. Worm Man, the first guy to go into a test sim accidentally fell in lava in the nether and screamed like hell when he was pulled out. It took hours to get him to realize he still had legs, and they weren't cooked off in the lava. If Goatman wasn't already hardened, seeing that as an intern might have made him quit the Hermethious program after seeing Worm Man's legs drop out from under him as he screamed about losing them.

Thing is, they also learned going in is faster than waiting for the computer. Worm Man, even while just wandering around lost as all hell, managed to pull the intern Goatman out before the glitched computers could.

And there was another thing he learned straight from the mouth of Worm Man himself. "Sometimes, you have to be brave and take big risks to make sure everything turns out okay."

"I'm going in."

~~~~~~

The sky was a shade of red that rivaled even Hell, and the air smelled of brimstone. Still, the Hermits on the egg ignored it. Etho turned his phone to show Zed a picture of a unicorn leaping over a neon striped crescent moon with a bright and colorful night sky background.

He started reading the caption, giggling. "Hey Zed, The old world is dying, the new world struggles to be born, now is the age of monsters."

Zed snorted. "Well the old world definitely is dying," he said before scrolling. He found an image of a blue moon over a galaxy background. He was about to turn his phone to read the caption to Etho when he looked to the sky. The doom moon was so close it was the whole sky as far as Zed could tell. Instead of feeling fear, he pointed, giggling, to the moon and said "Hey Etho. That's the orb that pounders us."

Etho broke out into laughter so strong it almost sent him off the top of the egg. "Oh, it's pondering us real hard."
Goatman's tracker said they were on top of the egg, and it was spot on. Those two were sitting on top of the egg. Thing is, it didn't tell him they were both looking at the celestial body threatening to kill them and laughing at it.

"Well that's one way to cope," he said before jumping all the way to the top, the loud clack of his hooves clicking loud on egg making them jump more than seeing the moon ever did.

"Who are you, and why do you look like Doc?" Etho asked.

"Goatman," Goatman said before extending his hand, "Come with me if you want to live."

Zed and Etho just looked at each other before looking at the stranger.

"Xisuma said not to trust strangers, even if they look like our friends," Zed said.

This gave the moon enough time to yeet a meteor at the ground about 20 blocks from the egg, sending dirt flying.

"We have no time!" he shouted before grabbing both and putting each under his arm. Etho and Zed both cried out in surprise before Goatman jumped off the egg and landed on a floating block, jumping off that before breaking out into a dead sprint. The two idiots under his arms started hooting and hollering.

"I haven't had this much fun since I experimented on the others!" Zed said with a smile. "Faster Goatman, Faster!"

As the world fell apart faster around him, Goatman granted Zedaph's wish, speeding up to try and get away from some of the chaos.

"Computer, pull us in!"

"Starting up program. One minute till pull in."

Meteors fell around them, but most of them were a good distance away. Etho turned to look back and saw a line of meteors falling behind him one after the other, the line practically chasing them as it fell. How Goatman was still running without stumbling even with the world being pulled apart and the aftershock of that line, Etho had no idea, but the meteors were starting to strike closer to them.

"Uhhh, Mr.Goatman," he stuttered, "Can you go a little faster?"

"Computer!"

"30 seconds."

A massive chunk of the ground started levitating as Goatman ran on it. He started jumping from block to block as the metiros still fell behind them, making blocks spin up behind him. But Goatman focused on what was in front of him. 'Keep going. As long as I can adapt to what's going on in front of me.'

"20 seconds."

A meteor struck the ground in front of Goatman, sending him flying back into a cluster of floating blocks, knocking the wind out of him, and the idiots out of his arms.

"10 seconds."

Goatman slowly started to pull himself up, only to have the two idiots who he was supposed to save pull him the rest of the way up.

"Thank you," He said.

"No problem," Zed said, "Besides if you die, I won't get any more Goat rides.

Something about that broke Goatman, and he started giggling.

"Real in process initiated."

The trio was pulled out of the disaster as the moon spread closer to the world.

~~~~~~

The two awoke in strange tubes along with the other Hermits. No one knew where they were, and a lot of their eyes darted around the ship trying to take in any information that would help them find out where they were. Unlike the others, Zed and Etho looked at each other before looking back to Goarman. His back was turned to Renbob, so reading lips was out of the question for most of the convo, but they got the last bit.

"Better to be fearful than dead."

Flashing lights came next, drawing Renbob and Goatman out of the room.

And just as quickly as they all woke up, the Hermits fell asleep to be carried to Season 9.

After checking the alert, and setting the system into overdrive, Goatman made a mental note to personally watch them.

'I'm not sure if those two being together or completely separated would make it easier to monitor them, and make sure they don't do something that dumb again.'

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!