



The Dragons Are Coming!

A One Piece Megatheory by Z.C.M.E.

(Don't Worry, It's Mostly Text)

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And so many other One Piece Youtubers that have helped shape and inform my various theories over the years.

And all due credit to the different artists and colorists whose art I'm using in this. I just took stuff off Google, so I can't credit everyone, but none of this artwork is mine. Just the terrible "1000 hours in MS Paint"-looking stuff.

And most of all, to Eiichiro Oda, for crafting one of the most engaging stories in the entire history of the world.

...This is all your fault.

Contents

Foreword	5
Chapter 1-The Dragons.....	6
Vegapunk's Message to the World	7
Vegapunk's Research	8
But, Dragons are a Myth...right?	11
Every Legend in this World Contains a Grain of Truth	12
The Importance of Being Named Dragon	14
The Link Between Oar's Race and Dragons	16
Can Dragons Speak?	18
Joyboy's Connection to the Dragons	21
Where Have All the Dragons Gone?.....	23
Chapter 2-The World Beneath the Sea.....	24
Hollow Earth Theory, Really?	25
The Holes in the Ocean.....	26
The Underworld is a Cold Place	32
Big Mom and Kaido's Bogus Journey	35
Chapter 3-The Ancient Kingdom.....	36
The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 1-The Land.....	37
Interlude-The Secret of the Devil Fruits	43
The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 2-The People	45
Interlude-The One Piece World Isn't Waterworld	47
The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 3-The Name.....	50
Interlude-The Original Inhabitants of the One Piece World.....	51
The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 4-The Assimilation	52
Interlude-The Purpose of the Voice of All Things	55
Epilogue-The Empire.....	56
Chapter 4-The Gorosei	59
The Gorosei's Inspirations?	60
The Gorosei's Origins.....	63
How to Defeat Immortal Devils.....	66
An Insult to Humanity	67
Saturn's Experiments.....	68
The Plan.....	70
The Choice.....	71

The Power of Nightmares is the Power of Darkness.....	76
Captain 5-Blackbeard	78
Blackbeard’s Patron God?	79
Blackbeard’s Jolly Roger.....	80
Blackbeard’s Connection to the Gorosei.....	82
Blackbeard’s Master Plan	83
Blackbeard’s Special Lineage.....	88
Blackbeard’s Third Fruit.....	90
Blackbeard’s Secret Devil Fruit Technique	92
Blackbeard’s Connection to Luffy	94
Chapter 6-Imu.....	97
Who is Imu?	98
Why does Imu want Vivi?	100
What Is Imu?	101
Why call themselves “The Celestial Dragons”?.....	104
Imu is not the Mother Ocean	105
Imu’s Devil Fruit	107
Chapter 7-The One Piece.....	112
The Treasure Part 1-The Storyteller.....	113
The Treasure Part 2-Picking up the Pieces.....	118
Chapter 8-And the rest... ..	122
The Age of Heaven.....	123
There are three Dawns!.....	124
What is Shanks’ Dream?.....	127
Who is the Man Marked by Flames?	129
The Island Clouds	131
Let’s Play “Who IS Rocks?”!	132
The Final Panel of One Piece.....	136
The Fate of Punk Records.....	137
Lightning Round!	139

Foreword

Yes, this is going to be the kind of Megatheory that has a foreword. Because, I'm kind of a pretentious jerk like that.

I suppose you might want to know a little more about me? And why you should bother reading this bloated treatise that will most likely be proven wrong by the next chapter?

Well, I was born in a snowstorm back in the year of Nineteen Eighty...

What's that? You don't care about any of that? Fair enough...

The truth is, I'm just some random guy on the internet with a little too much time on his hands and a few too many ideas about how this here story we all love could finish up.

I don't have any secret method of coming up with ideas. I don't have any reason to expect that my ideas are better than anyone else's. Chances are I'm going to be completely wrong about ALL of this.

But...I just can't help but wonder if I'm right?

And if I DO turn out to be right, I kind of want to be able to say "I told you so" to certain parties that doubted me.

So this is a collection of all the theories about One Piece that I can think of. Everything I've posted from around these inter-tubes of ours. From forums to my Youtube comments. Everything I can think of is here...in ONE PLACE!

What inspired me to write this right now? I am currently writing this all during the one month break between chapters 1111 and 1112. RIGHT before we all learn what Vegapunk's message to the world actually turns out to be.

Basically, I'm hoping that people get so bored waiting for the next chapter they decide to break down and read THIS monstrosity.

So, either I'm going to turn out to be a precognitive genius. Or, more likely, I'm going to be made to look like a fool almost immediately. But, you miss 100% of the shots you don't go for. I might as well shoot my shot.

But, hopefully, you at least have fun reading through this nonsense. And maybe...just maybe...you'll get a sneak peak at the future of this story we all love.

So, "Thank You" to all of you who decided to download this PDF from some rand-o on the internet. You don't have a great sense of internet safety, but you DO have good taste.

Either I'll be laughing at you all for not believing my theories, or you'll all be laughing at me for thinking any of this was even slightly possible. Whether I'm right or wrong, this should certainly be...a Laugh Tale.



A fairly accurate depiction of the Author of this Theory

(Freakazoid "The Island of Dr Mystico")

Chapter 1-The Dragons



The Dragons are Coming, They're Gonna Be Amazing!

Vegapunk's Message to the World

TLDR?

Vegapunk's message will consist of three facts revealed to the world. "The dragons are coming", "There's another world under the ocean", and, "The Ancient Kingdom was from outer space".

Explain?

Whatever Vegapunk's message is, I guess it requires visuals. So, I guess it's something complicated or weird. I don't think it will actually have anything to do with the World Government directly. Vegapunk actually seems surprised about how the Government is reacting, so I don't think he would have prepared a message about them. I think Vegapunk is literally talking about "the world", the physical object. And it's probably a warning of some kind. Something Vegapunk thinks the world needs to know in order to survive something that's coming.

So, I have three wild guesses.

One, "The Dragons are coming". We've seen that Vegapunk has LOT of interest in dragons, for some reason. He was trying to perfectly recreate the Dragon Devil Fruit. He was trying to "clone" dragons on Punk Hazard. He has a giant holographic dragon on his own island. Vegapunk seems to be a bit of a dragon fanboy, really. And we KNOW dragons used to exist thanks to Monsters/Ryuma. And I don't think it's a coincidence that we got a anime adaptation of that story this year. I think they did that to re-introduce the concept of dragons to the audience, because they're going to be important to the story soon.

Two, "There's another World under the ocean". I think it's possible that the One Piece World is hollow. Yes, I know, Hollow Earth theory is silly, but stay with me. We ALL suspect that Kaido and Big Mom aren't really dead, so what have they been doing all this time? Well, I think it's possible that they're basically having a family reunion of sorts in the Underworld. I think it's possible that this entire World is some sort of giant prison for Dragons and Oar's Race (which I call the Oni). When the Mother Flame fires into the ocean, the reason why it creates holes is because it's puncturing holes through to the other side of this Hollow Planet. The ocean has LESS total surface area to be spread over. This is something that might require visual aides to really get across. Plus, the idea of freeing all the people who have been trapped in the "Underworld" for centuries feels appropriate for Luffy.

Three, "The Ancient Kingdom was from outer space". Between the Gorosei's names, Ohara's Orrery, Enel's cover story on the Moon, and the fact that Vegapunk's holographic dragon looks suspiciously Namekian, I think there's going to be some sort of reveal about a threat from outer space. Something that the Ancient Kingdom might have been running away from. Honestly, I think it's possible that the One Piece World is the result of some sort of terraforming process, possibly with the Devil Fruits being the means of transforming the world into something inhabitable for these space people. I think it's possible that the One Piece World has basically, "inherited the will" of Earth itself. Earth may have been destroyed in the past, and the survivors took to the stars to create a new home. But, whatever blew up the original Earth is following them. We know there's SOME connection between this World and Earth, because Wano has a Mount Fuji. So, either this is Earth in the far future, or it's been remade to more closely resemble Earth.

And it's possible all three of these guesses are true at the same time. The Dragons might be the original inhabitants of this planet who were unfairly driven underground by the desperate invading humans. I know this is pretty out there, but One Piece can be kind of out there, too.

The rest of this theory will be expanding upon these core ideas in more detail. So, this should give you some idea if you want to continue reading or not.

I'm giving you an out, right now. You could stop and retain your sanity. Or venture further down this rabbit hole with me down to Wonderland. Don't say I didn't warn you!

Vegapunk's Research

TLDR?

Vegapunk has actually had a lot of connections to dragons over the course of this story.

Explain?

I think it's telling that almost every part of Vegapunk's research has involved dragons, on some level.



Chapter 592

On his birth island of Karakuri Island...there's nothing. Which isn't a great start. If we REALLY want to stretch the truth, it's possible that Vegapunk's search for a way to warm up his winter island home might have lead a young Vegapunk to start researching dragons, due to their natural flame breath in most depictions. Maybe Vegapunk started researching dragons as a way to power his warming device? But, that's far fetched, even for me.



Chapter 655

But, Punk Hazard gives us the first real connection between Vegapunk and dragons. Dragon Number 13! Implying that there were 12 other attempts at artificially creating a dragon. For reasons we still don't fully understand.



Chapter 685

Also on Punk Hazard, we learned that Vegapunk tried to (somewhat unsuccessfully) create an artificial version of the Mythical Dragon Fruit. For reasons we still don't know.



Chapter 1062

And most recently, Vegapunk has a holographic dragon opposite a holographic giant robot. Which Luffy calls a “Space Monster”. And again, he has this...thing, for reasons we still don't know.

So, yes. Vegapunk seems to have SOME sort of unexplained fascination with dragons for quite a while now.

Vegapunk, by all accounts, does seem to be a bit of a fanboy for dragons.

Meaning, that this message COULD contain some more information about what exactly dragons mean to this world. Vegapunk KNOWS something about dragons, but has never really talked about them. It's time he spills the beans.

The Purpose Behind Vegapunk's Research

But, to what end, you might ask?

Well, the World Government is trying to build an army. A unstoppable army. For an enemy they fear is coming.

...More on that a little later.

But, we know that the World Government is performing experiments to try to create soldiers, because Law told us himself.



Chapter 668

Plus...the Seraphim exist. So, it's pretty clear that the World Government is trying to build up a army to fight some force later in the story.

But, Dragons are a Myth...right?

TLDR?

If the Monsters and Ryuma special are actually canon, that means that dragons did exist in the One Piece World, at some point in history.

Explain?



Chapter 448

We already know that Ryuma is canon to One Piece, because...well, he literally shows up in Thriller Bark as a zombie.



Monsters 103 Mercies Anime

And we JUST got a anime adaptation of Ryuma's original Monsters one-shot. In which dragons, do indeed, exist. And in the anime version we even get a little "epilogue" tying the story back to Thriller Bark.

Which certainly seems to imply to ME that, at one point in time, dragons weren't just a myth. They were real. Even if this is the only confirmed case we have of a "natural" dragon, unlike Vegapunk's clones.

Every Legend in this World Contains a Grain of Truth

TLDR?

I feel pretty confident saying that while a lot of details get distorted, nothing that's been mentioned in this story has been a outright lie.

Explain?

Which brings us to a discussion about the nature of “myths” in One Piece.

Throughout this story, we've seen a LOT of instances of things that were thought by the people of this world to just be “legends” or “myths” without ANY basis in fact.

And almost every single one of them has turned out to be (at least partially) true.



Chapter 224

Sky Islands



Chapter 815

The Germa 66



Chapter 424

Mermaids



Chapter 655

And yes...even dragons

People at large seem to doubt they exist. They just think that they're just stories. And in every case, there turns out to be some truth to the story. Every, single, time.

There seems to be a theme of NOTHING in this world being 100% fictional. EVERYTHING seems to have some sort of historical basis, even if it's not quite the same as the story we're told.

Mind, it's possible that's all from the Devil Fruits manipulating reality over the centuries or something, making dreams come true where they didn't exist before long ago in the past. But, we really haven't see that be the case, yet.

So, whenever you see a character dismiss something as a “myth” or “legend”, you should probably be thinking about how this could end up being real.

The Importance of Being Named Dragon

TLDR?

Monkey D Dragon being named “Dragon” while the Celestial Dragon’s exist probably hints that “real dragons” actually aren’t bad guys.

Explain?

Here’s something that’s always kind of bothered me. Why would Garp, someone who supposedly hates the excesses of the Celestial Dragons, ever name his own son “Dragon”? Why would Garp want his son in any way associated with a group of people he can’t seem to stand?



Chapter 905

Well, there’s a simple answer for that...he isn’t named after them at all.

In Japanese, Monkey D Dragon is still “Dragon”. But, “Celestial Dragon” is “Tenryuubito”. They’re not named the same at all. If they were related, then he’d be called Monkey D Ryuu or something.

So, yeah, it’s still weird that he’s named “Dragon”, but he isn’t named after the Celestial Dragons.

But, that doesn’t mean his name is meaningless in this context, either.

Monkey D Dragon is, by all accounts, a good guy. We haven’t had any reason to really doubt that.

Mind you...I've doubted that. There's a part of me who thinks there's still a possibility that Dragon could actually be a double agent working for the World Government.

But...that really wouldn't make sense at this point. We've seen him train new recruits, like Sabo. The Revolutionaries are taking back countries that the World Government has abused all around the world. If Dragon IS a double agent, then he's the most incompetent double agent of all time. Even if he's doing nothing on purpose, he's still being too successful at it.

And he's still a "Monkey D", and they tend to be rather straightforward guys. What you see is what you get. They have hidden depths, sure. But, they still are who they appear to be. Garp and Luffy are hardly "tricksters" so, I doubt Dragon is, either.



Now, there's a face you can trust!

Chapter 440

No, I think Dragon's named that for a more metaphorical reason. I think Oda named him that so that the audience would know that "real dragons" are actually the good guys.

The Celestial Dragons are the "fake wannabe" dragons. And Monkey D Dragon is more like what "real dragons" are like.

The Link Between Oar's Race and Dragons

TLDR?

I think that Oar's Race is basically a mix between the dragons and humans. And eventually, as the bloodline was diluted Oar's Race just became Giants. Also, I'm going to call Oar's Race "the Oni" from now on, because I don't want to keep typing "Oar's Race" over and over again.

Explain?

We've only met a few Oni throughout the story.



Chapter 456



Chapter 555

"Oars" and "Little Oars Jr". These are the only two members of this particular race we've ever seen.

The point is, that we basically don't know anything about this particular race.

But, I personally think they could be a mixed race. We really haven't explored that idea as much as we could have in One Piece, yet. But, with all the different kinds of people and species running around this world, it's a pretty natural idea.

Humans, Giants, Fishmen, Long Limbs, Skypeans, Minks...the list just goes on. There's SO MANY ways for a bloodline to change and mutate over the years as different people fall in love and have children with different species.

So, I just have to wonder if the Oni are a result of Dragons and Humans having children.

Why? Because they have bodies like humans and horns like dragons.

...Yes, that's it.

I don't have any proof, and I don't really have any reason for it, other than it popped into my head. Not all my theories are going to be complicated or detailed or even particularly well thought out. Deal with it.

But, it does kind of make sense. And if the bloodline got further diluted, I could see this being the same way Giants came to exist. Giants are just Oni who have more Human relatives than Dragons in their ancestry, over the millennia.

As for how that would...y'know..."work"?

Well, have you SEEN some of the "normal" humans in One Piece?



Chapter 234

We just have to accept that this is a planet of “miracles” and just leave it at that.

Can Dragons Speak?

TLDR?

They almost certainly have a culture, but it's possible they just can't speak to normal humans without the Voice of All Things. The Dragon Civilization might have even given humans the Dragon's Horn, which might have lead, in part, to their downfall.

Explain?

As often as dragons have been mentioned in One Piece's story, we've never actually SEEN a dragon in it's right mind before. We've never seen a dragon in its natural state.



In the Monsters one-shot, the only dragon we get to see is actually being mind controlled by the true villain of the story by using the Dragon's Horn. It acts like a rampaging animal, but that's because it's being controlled against it's will. We don't know for sure if that's what it usually acts like.

On Punk Hazard, Dragon Number 13 was a artificially created dragon. It never grew up around other dragons, and we can't even be sure if it was "cloned" or if it was "spliced together" from different animals to make something that just resembles a "real dragon" like a chimera.

The only other dragons we've seen have actually been Devil Fruit users, which don't really count for this discussion.

We can't even be sure if dragons have a society, like the Giants. Or if they're basically just wild animals, like camels or the Water 7 Bulls or the South Birds. Although, in the One Piece World, the distinction does tend to get muddled a bit. With the power of the Voice of All Things, a person can hear EVERYTHING talk. And Chopper can talk to wild animals. The animals in One Piece, even the untamed ones, all have a language of their own.

But, I'm betting that "true dragons" do have societies and cultures. They might even be able to speak with humans without using the Voice of All Things. Although, it would almost make sense for there to be a language barrier, given what I think happened to them.

Because, take a closer look at the Dragon's Horn from the anime version of the special. In the original manga, it's a undecorated black horn. But in the new anime adaptation from this very year, it's got a BUNCH of new designs all over it.

Now, maybe this is just the anime embellishing things to make things look more interesting visually. The anime does that every so often. Like the controversial "auras" during battles. But, it COULD be hinting at something.

I can't help but notice HOW they decided to decorate the horn. Note the "hearts" at the top of the horn. And, is it my imagination, or is that dragon actually smiling?

This doesn't look to me like a magical artifact that was designed to control ferocious monsters. It looks like a gift that was given as a token of friendship from one culture to another. A gift given in the trust that it would be used responsibly. A gift given believing that it wouldn't be abused.

I think the Dragon Civilization might have given that Dragon's Horn to the humans as a sort of "peace treaty" between the dragons and the humans. And the humans ended up breaking that treaty and abusing that trust. That would be easier to do if only the humans who can use the Voice of All Things could actually speak to the dragons.

Because, if you used the Dragon's Horn on a large group of dragons, you could get them to do anything you wanted to do, supposedly.

Like walk themselves into their own jail cells without a fight.

Just because it's Non-Canon doesn't mean it couldn't be a hint!



There's also the Sennenryu from the anime filler Warship Island arc, but that's non-canon. Although, it IS interesting to watch through after so much time has passed.

A part of me wonders if Oda was worried that the anime would end after one season, so he gave a few "tips" to the anime crew so they could have a version of the ending he was planning.

The Voice of All Things makes its technical first appearance in this arc.

And our first "Mythical Zoan Fruit" in the Kamaitachi Fruit, even if that's referring to the weather phenomenon moreso than the yokai. And a few things that feel like it's foreshadowing the Ancient Weapons.

And one of the villains, Nelson Royale, looks like a prototype for the Celstial Dragons, even though this came out YEARS before they were introduced into the story.

There's just a lot of INTERESTING stuff about this arc. Like the line "The end of the war came during the 1201st Generation", after a long, rambling history lesson from an elder. Which feels like a hint that the manga will end around chapter 1200, to me.

Give episodes 54-61 of the anime a watch if you've never seen it, I think you'll find it interesting now that we're near the endgame.

Joyboy's Connection to the Dragons

TLDR?

I think Joyboy could very well be Oars the First. Or, at the very least, a Oni. Making him a descendant of both Dragons and Humans. And I think he died trying to bring peace to the two races at war with each other.

Explain?

I think Joyboy could potentially be of the Oni race. Which, if my theory is true, means he's the product of a relationship between a dragon and human.

...Which means, if these two civilizations were at war with each other, he'd be stuck right in the middle of it. Not really belonging to either side, but with people he cared about on both sides of the conflict. Just wanting everyone he knows to be happy.

Joyboy might be a literal "miracle child". Proof that the two races COULD coexist by being able to have children together.

Why do I think that Joyboy could even be a Oni? Well, partially because of the giant straw hat in Imu's refrigerator.



Chapter 906

Which, if you remember, is actually pretty similar to how Oars was frozen in Moria's refrigerator back in Thriller Bark.



Chapter 456

And in fact, the link to the cold is actually important. Because I think the other Oni are trapped in the Underworld.

And as we all know, in Japan, the Underworld can be a cold place. (Skip ahead to “The Underworld Is A Cold Place” if you want more details on that.)

And sure, that hat doesn’t look quite big enough for a Oni. Those guys are HUGE. But, it could just be a scale issue. Imu COULD be standing farther away than it looks like. And I’m willing to ignore something that nitpicky for the sake of a good theory. Size scaling in One Piece can be a little elastic, at times.

But, other than that, I just think it makes sense.

There’s actually fairly solid proof that the “Zombie Oars” from Thriller Bark and “Little Oars Junior” from Marineford are ACTUALLY “Oars the Second” and “Oars the Third”, since “Little Oars Juniorr” has a jolly roger with the roman numeral 3/III on it.



Chapter 551

Which means, if this is true, that we’ve never actually met “Oars the First”. And if we HAVE met the other two, it just makes sense to me if we’d eventually meet the first one.

And Joyboy just makes for a good candidate for the original Oars.

Plus, revealing Oars as a Oni would be like revealing the Wizard of Oz to be a normal Human. And, the kanji for “Oars” also reads as “Oz”, like in the early fan-translations. It would lead to a similar important story-changing reveal.

Where Have All the Dragons Gone?

TLDR?

They're prisoners of the Hollow Earth!

Explain?

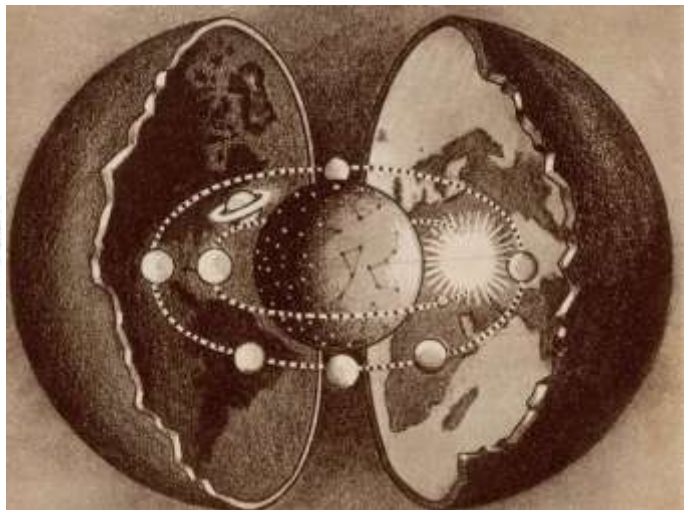
I think the Dragon race has been driven underground...literally.

I think that in a parallel to Impel Down, Luffy's going to have to eventually lead a breakout of a entire race of people who haven't been allowed to see the sun in hundreds of years.

A race of dragons who have been imprisoned unjustly...in a literal Underworld.

Which segways nicely into...

Chapter 2-The World Beneath the Sea



We Won't Turn the World Upside Down...We'll Turn It Inside Out!

Hollow Earth Theory, Really?

TLDR?

YES, REALLY!

Explain?

YES, REALLY-REALLY! For real life!



Bluey is skeptical, but willing to go along with the fun.

Be like Bluey.

Look, I know Hollow Earth theory is basically THE most openly mocked conspiracy theory in the Western world.

I know that it basically symbolizes the epitome of crackpot loonies the world over.

But, just GO with me on this. I think it'll make more sense once I explain it.

This is a fictional world. And let's face it, One Piece has done crazier things.

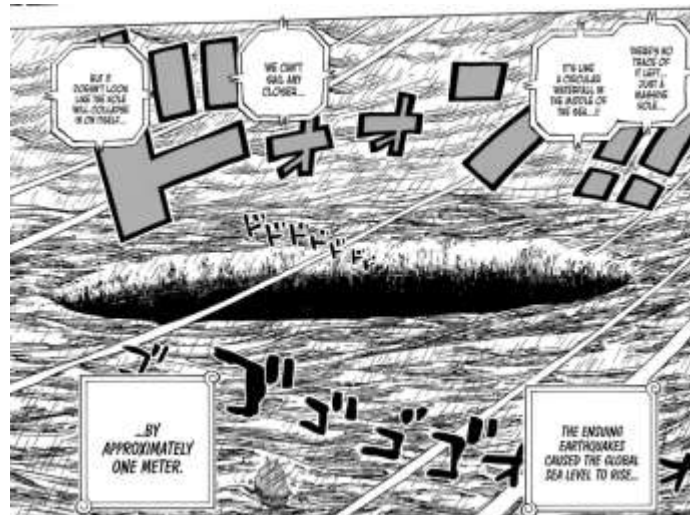
The Holes in the Ocean

TLDR?

The Mother Flame shooting holes into the ocean **ONLY** makes sense in a Hollow Earth scenario.

Explain?

Do you remember Lulusia? And how it got blown up so hard that it left a crater in liquid?



Chapter 1089

Yeah, me neither. Oddly forgettable for some reason.

Well, how does that work? Well, with our good friend Hollow Earth Theory, it all works out peachy!

There's a bunch of oddities happening with this hole.

One, the Hole does not close up.

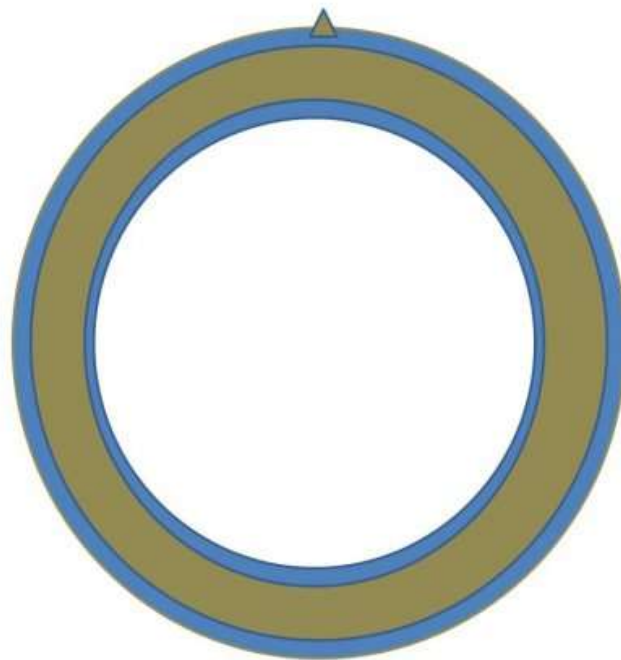
Two, the Hole was created 6 days AFTER Lulusia got blown up.

And three, the hole is making the water level around the entire world RISE!

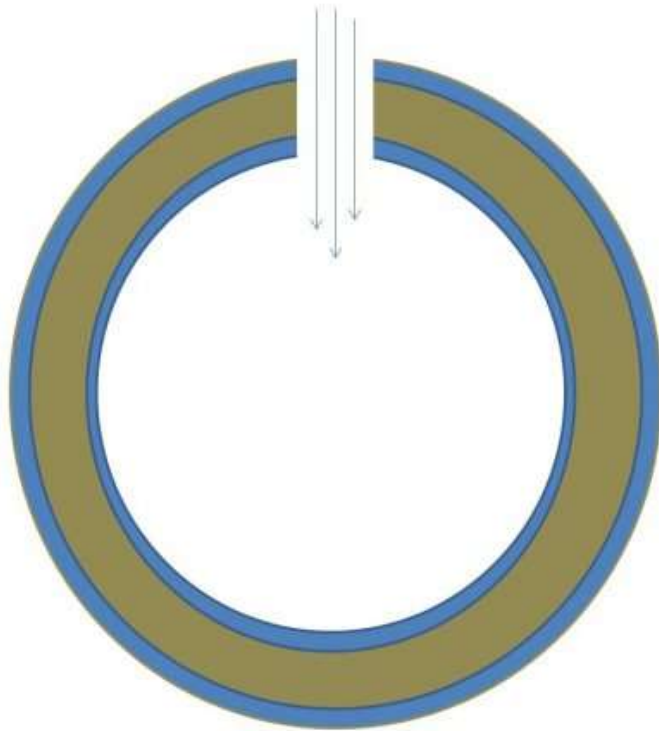
And I think Hollow Earth theory explains ALL of that.



This is a cross section of the One Piece World, in my mind. There's a ocean on the surface. A Crust. And a second inner ocean in the center of the hollow planet. On the surface live species like the Lunarian. In the center of the planet live the Dragons and Oni, imprisoned against their will.

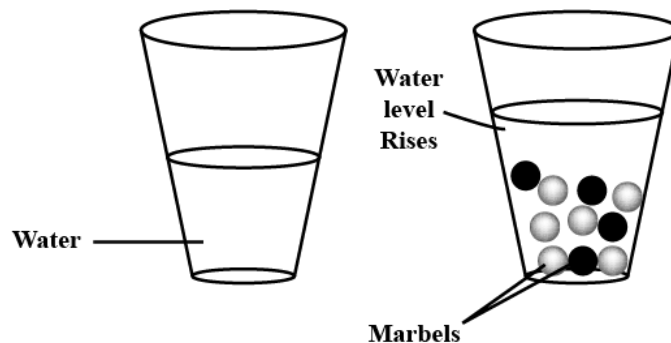


This little brown triangle represents a island. There are many of these inside and outside the surface of the planet, but we only need to show ONE for our purpose.



This is a weapon destroying that same island. It might be Uranos, or the Mother Flame, it doesn't really matter.

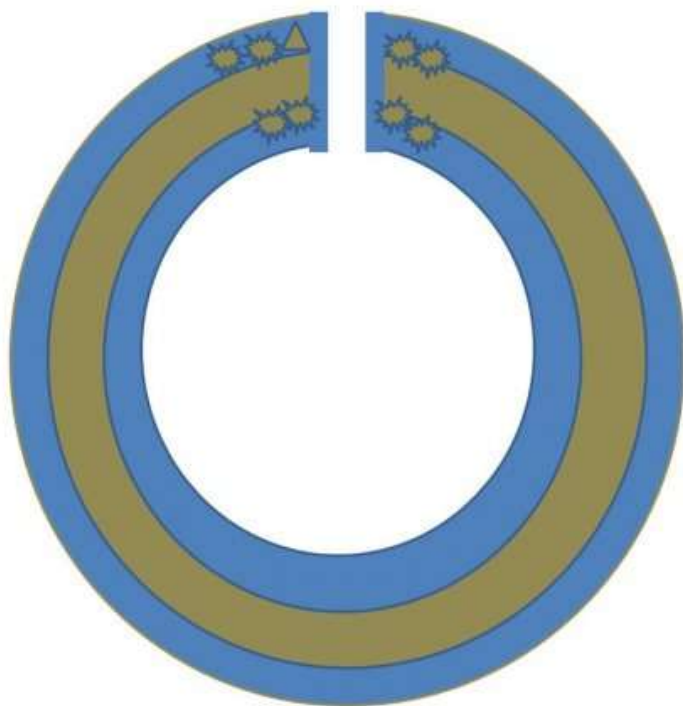
But notice, it not only blows up the island, but also drills a hole straight through the Crust to the inside of the planet. This means there are TONS more rock that just went into the two oceans than JUST the rock from the destroyed island. All the rock that used to be a part of the Crust is also thrown into the ocean. Causing the water level of the entire planet to rise. Like adding marbles to a glass of water.



There would also just be less total surface area for all this water to cover. Since there's a hole in the planet, the same amount of water is spread over a slightly smaller distance, this may be another cause for the water level around the world to rise.

This process probably also took some time. It MAY have taken days for the original attack to make it's way all the way to the other side of the Crust.

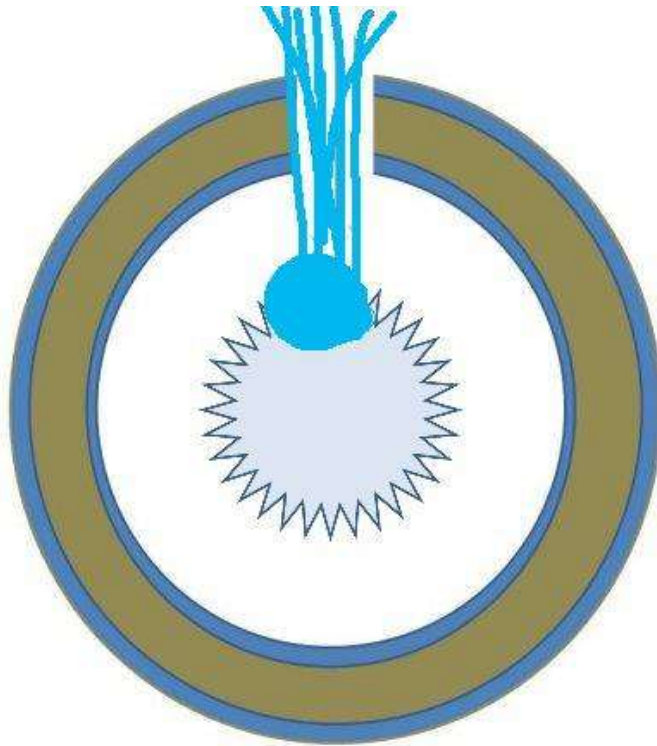
This also ends up linking the Inner and Outer Oceans. And if one of these oceans were "fuller" than the other, it would ALSO cause the sea level to change.



So here, we see the One Piece World after the usage of the Weapon. Notice the triangle representing the island on the bottom of the ocean. As well as the "rubble" that came from the Crust, on both sides of both oceans.

Since the two oceans are now connected, there's no way for the hole to fill up. The 6 day time difference is explained by it taking time for the attack to make it's way through the thick Crust of the planet. And the water level rose due to any difference in sea level of the Inner and Outer Oceans AND the amount of rubble and rocks that were sent to the sea floor from both the Island and Crust. I feel like this answers all three mysteries of what we see in this chapter.

But, there's one more layer to this theory that I need to add. It's possible that the "Inner World" actually doesn't contain a ocean of it's own. Rather, it's a frozen core.



Which means, the Mother Flame is melting the icy core of the planet, and all the water from the core is gushing upwards onto the surface of the planet. Like a Tootsie Pop with a frozen core. Or a Chocolate Lava Cake with the inner fudge gushing out.

...I'm hungry.

And we know for a fact that this has happened at least a few times over the years, because we've already seen another of these holes.



Enies Lobby was likely formed in a very similar way to the destruction of Lulusia. And the World Government might have built a base right on top of that hole for an interesting reason.

Also...This May Explain the Origin of Sea-Stone?

A Sidenote:Is it possible that the "Crust" is where the World Government has been getting the Seastones? Could Imu be blowing up islands, not just to punish those who go against them, but also so they can mine a material to use against Devil Fruit users?

It's kind of like Kryptonite. After it gets blown up, it soaks up the Mother Flame's "radiation" or maybe the "Ocean's energy" and gains the ability to weaken Devil Fruit Users.

The Underworld is a Cold Place

TLDR?

We know a physical frozen Underworld exists because Brook has already told us he's been there. And we've even seen Frozen Giants who might be excavated from the Underworld during Punk Hazard.

Explain?

We all love Brook here. But, a lot of times we don't take him seriously.

Like that time he said he literally went to the Underworld. And gained the power of it, to make his sword gain ice elemental damage.



Chapter 443



Chapter 643

Brook HAS been to the Underworld. And like I've said before, Every Legend in this World has a Grain of Truth to it.

I don't think there's any reason to doubt that there really is a physical Underworld and that it really is cold there.

And that actually lines up with actual Buddhist mythology pretty well.

There are actually Eight Cold Hells in Buddhism. I guess these are actually “minor Hells”, usually, but they are a part of the Underworld. Called either Jigoku or Naraka, depending on the source you use.

You can read more about them here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eight_Cold_Hells

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naraka_\(Buddhism\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naraka_(Buddhism))

But, let’s just say, it just gets colder the farther down you go.

I feel like it’s also worth noting that we HAVE seen some frozen bodies before, which MIGHT have been excavated from the center of the planet itself. The Frozen Giants on Punk Hazard.



Chapter 660

Could this actually be a literal scene from the Underworld?

Sure, it’s pretty easy to assume this was caused by Akainu and Aokiji’s fight on Punk Hazard, but remember that was a mostly recent occurrence. After Vegapunk had already moved to Egghead. From the location in the Research Facility, it seems like these Frozen Giants had probably already been here at the same time Vegapunk was.

Vegapunk was likely studying these Giants at the same time he was experimenting making his artificial dragons. And again, this has never actually been explained.

Fun Fact Time!

This “frozen Underworld” concept might actually originate from Mount Fuji!

In Aokigahara Forest surrounding Mount Fuji, there are actually a series of ice caves formed from the volcanic eruption of Mount Fuji itself in the past.

A major ice cave is the Narusawa Ice Cave.



I could easily see someone in the past accidentally stumbling into a ice cave under a forest and the story eventually growing into coming back from the Underworld after a few drinks.

Big Mom and Kaido's Bogus Journey

TLDR?

I'm pretty sure Kaido and Big Mom survived falling into that volcano in Wano. And they're probably having a "family reunion" while journeying through the frozen Underworld.

Explain?

Hey, remember that time Big Mom and Kaido plummeted to their Mount Doom?



Chapter 1050

Yeah, I know, me neither. So many forgettable chapters in this manga, I swear.

Well, I think we all expect Kaido and Big Mom to come back into the story at some point. But, I mean, it's magma. That stuff's pretty hot. I don't know how you survive something like that...

Oh, look at that, our good buddy Hollow Earth Theory is here to save the day yet again!

I mean, sure magma is hot and all. But, if there's only a relatively thin layer of it, people as tough as Big Mom and Kaido could probably survive for at least a few minutes.

And if I'm also right and the core of this planet is actually made of ice, well, that actually might end up being more refreshing than anything else.

Like rolling around in the snow after being in a hot springs!

And if my OTHER theory is correct, we might have a family reunion on our hands.

Kaido's always had those horns of his, so he MIGHT be related to the Oni. And the same goes for Big Mom, especially if Giants do turn out to be just diluted Oni. And if that's true, that means they'd ALSO be distantly be related to any Dragons who might be frozen in the core of this World.

Which means we'd have us a good ol' fashioned family reunion on our hands!

I could just see Big Mom and Kaido breaking open a few Frozen Giants and finding out they're all family!

But, that does raise a question. If this world is just one giant prison (ha ha), then who locked them all up?

Well, let's get into the MANY potential crimes (and origins) of...

Chapter 3-The Ancient Kingdom



Tim Curry as Premier Cherkendo IN Red Alert

...have you noticed that I like Tim Curry, yet?

One Piece is the story of what happens AFTER that...

The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 1-The Land

TLDR?

The Ancient Kingdom was from outer space!

Explain?

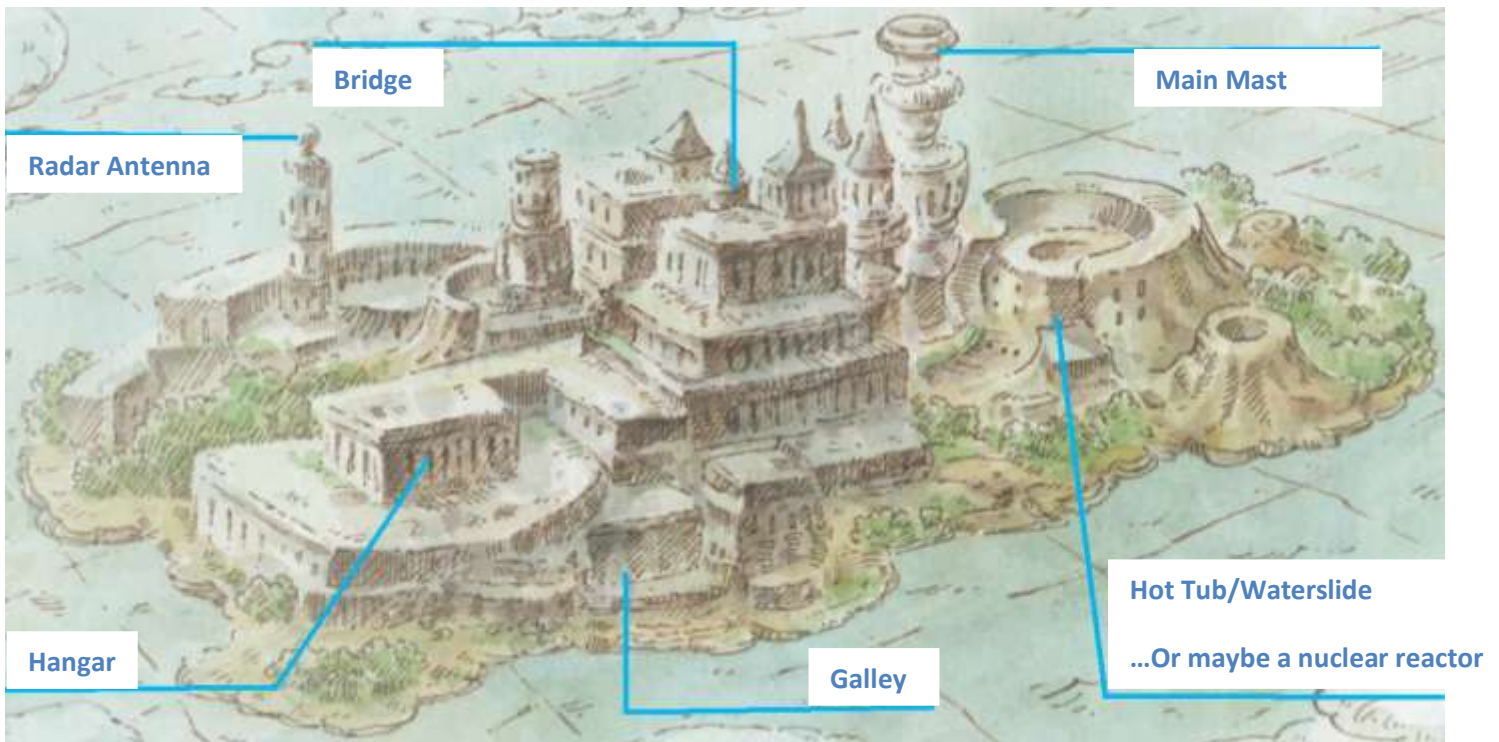
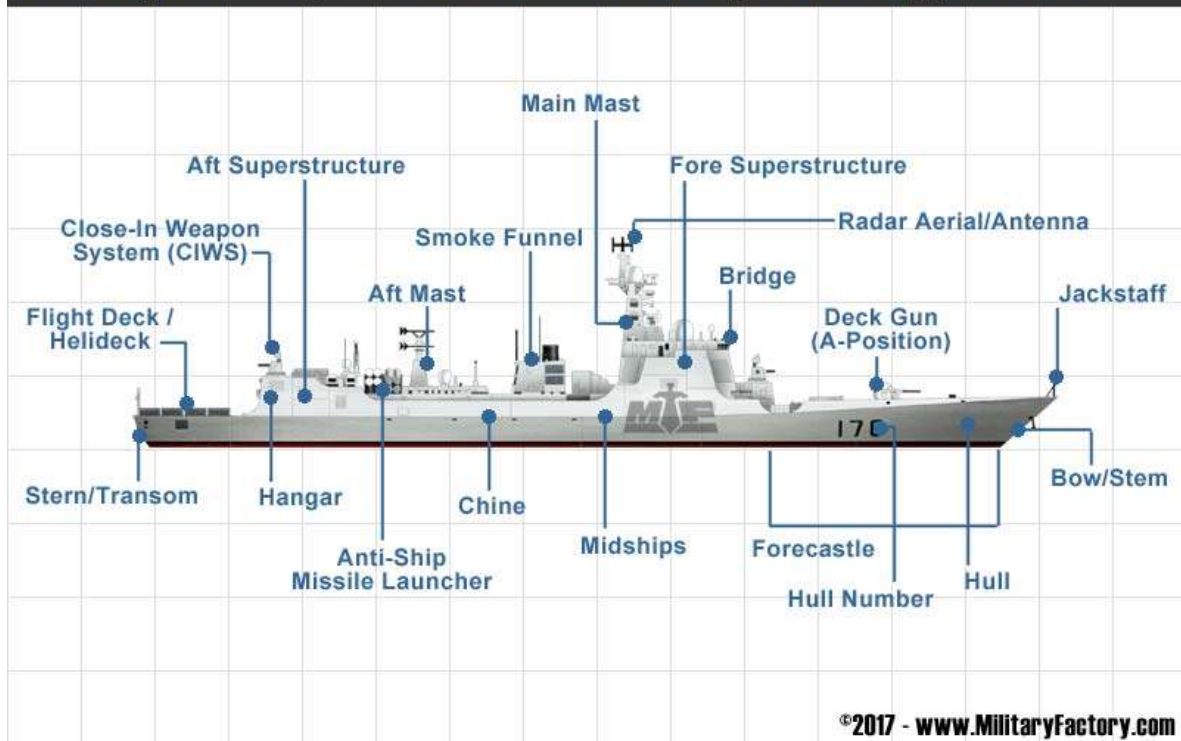
Vegapunk has recently made a big deal about how advanced the Ancient Kingdom was. But, would it surprise you to think that the Ancient Kingdom was actually from SPACE!

...No? Really? Well, that's what I get for spoiling it all on the first page, I guess.

Although, some of you probably ARE asking "Wait, space? Why?"

Well, because I so happen to think that the classic image of The Great Kingdom just so happens to look a awful lot like a battleship.

Warship Anatomy - Guided-Missile Destroyer (CNS Type 052C)



I think it's possible that the Ancient Kingdom is basically a spaceship that crash landed on this planet.

And then, over the millennia, plants began to grow and overtake the ship.

Kind of like sunken ships that eventually turn into islands and coral reefs as sea life takes them over.



Think something along the lines of the White Base from Gundam. Or the Space Battleship Yamato.



Or like Macross City from the anime Macross.



A structure that used to sail the “high seas” of space that has since been repurposed and become a structure to live in, after it can no longer fly.

Also, the Ancient Giant Robot being created by the Ancient Kingdom implies that this was indeed a space faring kingdom. Since giant robots in Japanese media are often tied to outer space.



Chapter 1065

Gundam Wing

And we've actually had plenty of hints that the Ancient Kingdom actually did have some sort of connection to outer space due to Enel's adventures on the moon cover story.



Chapters 428-474

But, of course, there's more to it than that. Because you might be surprised just who the original inhabitants of the Ancient Kingdom were...

Also...?

You know, I never noticed before but Baltigo, the Revolutionary Army's original secret base, sure does look a lot like the Ancient Kingdom illustration, too.



It's got the "Galley" entrance and the "Radar Antenna" towers. There's definitely similarities.

And the name "Baltigo" is pretty close to the USS Baltimore. Which was a American Battleship during World War 2, which was used during attacks on Japan. Not much of a connection, but maybe?

There's also "Baldimore", Vegapunk's homeland, which is too covered by ice and snow to really tell if there are similar structures there. But, maybe there are structures like this all over the world. Remnants of a global spanning empire lost to time. I'm not sure about that, but it's not impossible. There COULD be more than one Ark Ship, after all.

Interlude-The Secret of the Devil Fruits

TLDR?

Devil Fruits are actually a way of terraforming a planet. A way to “program” one world to be more like another.

Explain?

...But, before we talk about WHO the inhabitants of the Ancient Kingdom were, I think we need to talk about just what the Devil Fruits are, first.

Devil Fruits do a lot of things.

They seem to be able to pass the personalities of ancient people onto the next generation. And also contain A LOT of seemingly random elements, from animals, to literal elements, to specific people.

BUT...what if they're not random? What if they're a different kind of “wish” than what we usually think of? What if all these Devil Fruits are DESIGNED to contain all the information you need in order to recreate an entire planet? Basically, a living DNA bank, that you could use to repopulate a planet if everything on it went extinct. A terraforming process involving fruits you can plant to re-create the information stored within the fruit.

So, in a way, the Celestial Dragons might really be the “gods” of this world. They might have helped to mold and change it into what it is today.

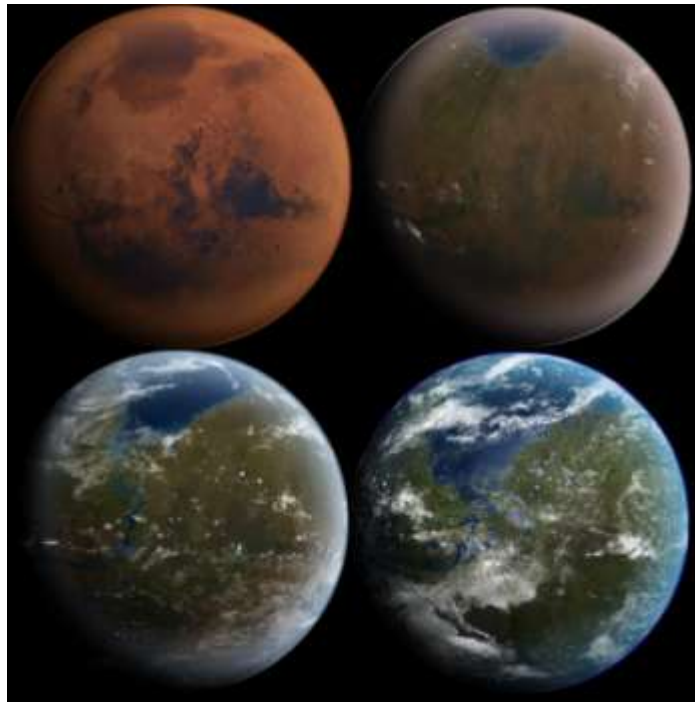


Illustration of the hypothetical terraforming of Mars

And, in fact we've already seen Devil Fruits have this exact effect. On Punk Hazard.



Chapter 658

When you bring out their greatest power, Devil Fruits are able to change the world around them. I think this is their original intended purpose.

Devil Fruits are meant to change the world.

And a bonus really sad thought!

What if the Devil Fruits aren't the desires of the people who wanted the powers for themselves? What if instead they're the dreams parents had for their children? Things they hope their children will be able to do and experience that they never could? Dreams that their children would lead better lives than they did. Dreams that the parents will never see come true because they died to keep their children alive.

The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 2-The People

TLDR?

The “aliens” who invaded the One Piece World were actually Humans from Earth...all along!

Explain?

So, if we accept the idea that the Ancient King originated from Outer Space, then who were they and where could they have possibly have come from?



“You’re not SYLVIA!”

(Garfield and Friends “Video Airlines”)

Okay, fine, that’s a big logical leap. But, this is MY THEORY and we’re making that LEAP!

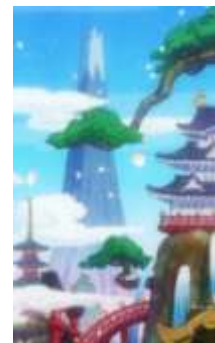
Personally, I think the most interesting twist Oda could have is that these “aliens” that invaded this World are actually...Humans from Earth all along.

Humans are the ones who started changing this planet to make it more like Earth.

I don’t think it’s any coincidence that Wano has a Mount Fuji on it. That’s a VERY specific place to mention.



Mount Fuji



Wano’s Mount Fuji

Which means, either this planet is Earth in the far future, ala Waterworld, or...

(Pause for dramatic effect)

All throughout this story, “inherited will” has been a big theme. People being inspired by their ancestors. History repeating itself. Old wounds and grudges never truly healing. It’s been a BIG theme underneath EVERYTHING in this story. So, from a thematic standpoint, I think it makes sense for this entire planet to be a “legacy”...the result of some sort of grand “inherited will”.

I think this planet we’ve spent so long watching ISN’T Earth...but it has “inherited the will” of Earth. This planet is the result of someone trying to “terraform” another planet into a second Earth. All using Devil Fruits.

Fun Fact Time!

The real Mount Fuji actually has a rather large rift on it’s west side, called the Osawa Failure. Mount Fuji is actually constantly losing rubble and there’s a fear that one day it could completely collapse and change the image of the mountain entirely. That could be why Wano’s Mount Fuji is so pin-shaped compared to the real thing. It’s possibly a future version of Mount Fuji that has already collapsed and changed it’s shape.



<https://www.cbr.mlit.go.jp/fujisabo/en/bosai/bosaikatudo/bosairekisi-genjyou.html>

Or I’m right and it’s another mountain entirely that the Ancient Kingdom just named Mount Fuji in memory of the original mountain.

Either/Or.

Interlude-The One Piece World Isn't Waterworld

TLDR?

None of the islands we've visited really line up with their real world counterparts on the map of Earth. It's all mixed up.

Explain?

So, you might be thinking to yourself "Well, what if this manga IS just in the future? The One Piece World IS just Waterworld. That's...fine.". And I say to that...do you really want that to be true? Are you really fine with that?



Really?!

But, okay, yeah, I can't say it's not a possibility. I just think it's unlikely.

Because if it IS Earth in the far future, then it's after all the continents got all jumbled up because no one is where they're supposed to be.

And to be fair, yes, we DO have a couple of characters who have been literally stated to be "Continent Pullers" like Oars and Zuneisha, so moving countries around is a possibility, but I don't like it so *NAAHHH*

I don't WANT the One Piece World to just be Earth in the future. That's too predictable.

But, let's just see for ourselves.

As you're probably aware, a lot of locations in the One Piece World are actually based on locations in the real world. Some of the most notable include:

1. Gray Terminal-Metro Manila/Smokey Mountains, Phillipines
2. Alabasta-Egypt, Africa
3. Water 7-Venice, Italy
4. Amazon Lily-Hanging Temple, China
5. Mariejois-Chateau de Chambord, France
6. Punk Hazard-Iceland
7. Rommel Kingdom-London, England
8. Dressarossa-Park Guell, Spain
9. Wano-Ninja Kingdom, Japan

https://www.reddit.com/r/OnePiece/comments/cx4qeb/one_piece_locations_based_from_real_life/

<https://screenrant.com/one-piece-islands-inspired-real-places/>



Credit to Select-Paint9893 on Reddit

reddit.com/r/OnePiece/comments/11wovy2/one_piece_map_2023/



As you can see (hopefully, due to the cropping and size), while these areas ARE surprisingly mostly all in a line, they're all jumbled up.

(Also, I can't find Rommel on the One Piece map, and it doesn't seem to have a firm location, that's why there's no #7 on that map.)

I am surprised that there DOES seem to be a loose horizontal line made by these locations in the real world. But, they're not in the same places.

So, if these are supposed to reference the "real" Earth, then all the continents have indeed been jumbled up and mixed up.

Which again...yes, that's possible, but I just like the idea of the One Piece World being a different world that got changed to look more like the "real" Earth. So sue me.

The "Continent Pullers" could have just been used in the terraforming process to make this planet more to the space colonist's liking. A way to customize the planet the way they wanted. Like changing the terrain in a SimCity game, only in real time.

Also, the Orrery in Ohara points to this not being the "normal" Earth.



Chapter 392

Mind you, this does reflect real world history. Originally, astronomers were only aware of 6 planets in our solar system and thought they all rotated around the Earth.

But, if this is in any way an accurate depiction of the One Piece World, it implies that it's completely different from "our" Earth.

The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 3-The Name

TLDR?

The name of the Ancient Kingdom is...Earth!

Explain?

Yes, I'm saying that the Ancient Kingdom's true name is actually...Earth!

...Or "Japan"...or "Enterprise"..or..umm...something that connects back to "our" planet Earth.

This is probably a very boring non-reveal if you've actually been reading through this theory. But, it's probably kind of crazy if you're just skipping ahead and reading the "headlines".

I guess you know which one YOU are now, don't you?

...Or Maybe...?

It's possible that the Ancient Kingdom's name is actually "Binks". As in the song, "Bink's Sake".

Binks being revealed to actually be the name of a place actually would mean something both to us, the audience, and to the characters in the story. So, that would work pretty well, I'd say.

I just have something else that I like the use of the word "Binks" more for. You'll see. But, "Earth" definitely fits better for this Megatheory.

Interlude-The Original Inhabitants of the One Piece World

TLDR?

Dragons were the original inhabitants of this planet, until the Humans invaded and turned it into a copy of Earth.

Explain?

So, if Humans invaded this planet, then who was here first?

Well, this is where this theory wraps around right back to the beginning.

The original inhabitants of this world were the Dragon Civilization.

The dragons were unjustly removed from their lands by the invading Humans and placed in a icy prison at the heart of the planet. Never to be heard from again.



Chapter 1062

...And it's all based on real world history...

I'm sorry, but this is about to get a little heavy.

You see, the Ainu people of Japan lived through a very similar history to what I just recounted.

The Ainu were the original indigenous people of Japan. But, eventually settlers from mainland Asia came and started taking their land for their own. It's a very similar story to the Native Americans, which you are probably more familiar with.

<https://raestea.medium.com/japans-latest-punch-in-the-face-to-the-ainu-people-olympics-2020-ab7410523ab3>

<https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-topics/g02276/>

And, the most important part that actually connects this back to One Piece, the Ainu people were also dehumanized in art and stories as mountain monsters that deserved to be hunted and persecuted into near extinction.

The Ainu people are believed to be one of the real-world inspiration for the myths about Oni.

The colonizers of Japan made up stories to justify their actions. Made up fake stories to make it okay to get rid of a people who were inconvenient. Told their people that those other people were actually "devils".

Just like the World Government does to people it targets.

The Secret of the Ancient Kingdom Part 4-The Assimilation

TLDR?

The Ancient Kingdom left Earth because it was destroyed. The survivors took up the mission to re-create Earth...no matter what the cost. AKA The History of the World.

Explain?

Here's what I think happened.

In the far future, Earth was invaded by an Alien Empire and humanity was taken as slaves. During the conflict the Earth was destroyed, but some survivors managed to escape in ships of their own and fled to the far reaches of the cosmos. Far away from the Aliens ever being able to find them again.

Eventually, the human survivors manage to find a planet they can use...but it has intelligent life on it's surface. Maybe there's a internal argument amongst the survivors about the ethics of transforming this planet for their own use. But, eventually it's decided that they'll go through with it. They don't have much choice, being low on fuel and supplies needed to survive. This is the only planet that's habitable...with the help of the Devil Fruits.

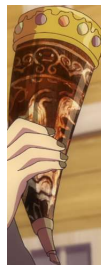
The Devil Fruits, which were probably called something else like "Dream Fruits" at this time, contain all the data the survivors could gather in time about the Earth. All the elements that made it up. All the animals that inhabited it's surface. All of the information on their society and it's culture. Even the memories and desires of some of it's most important people. All packed into a artificial plant that could self-replicate across the surface of another planet. Spreading the information it contained into the very soil of the planet and turning that planet into something closer to the original Earth.

The process started off small, in a localized area. There were few survivors at first. They didn't need that much land to survive. That allowed them to make contact with the indigenous people of this world...the Dragon Civilization.

While initially hostile and territorial, the Humans managed to explain their situation to the Dragons. Thus, began a grudging cooperation between the two. The Dragons would teach the Humans more about this world they've landed upon. And the Humans would share the wonders of their advanced technology with the Dragons, including the powerful "Dream Fruits".

And so begins a long relationship between the Dragons and Humans. They even begin to find friendships forming...and more. Gifts are given to celebrate the "eternal bond" between these two civilizations linked together in friendship.

But, it wasn't to last. Humanity grows quickly. Too quickly. They need more land. More land than the Dragons can give. The Dragon's hunting territories are overwritten to make way for more human cities. Enough is enough, and the Dragons push back.



This is where the Dragon's Horn comes back into our story...

Resentment eventually turns to bloodshed. Humans who had once befriended Dragons betray them and vice versa. The Dragons want their land back. This rage and hatred eventually gives birth to a Fruit that will grant everyone their wish for revenge, a “Nightmare Fruit”. This “Nightmare Fruit” eventually goes out of control and threatens to destroy the entire world. The Humans and Dragons come together one more time in order to save their world from destruction.

That would be the last time Dragons and Humanity ever worked together. Weakened by the fight by the “Nightmare Fruit” entity, the Dragons are no match for the advanced Humans and their technology. Gifts given in trust are used against them. And they’re all literally driven underground along with the “Nightmare Fruit” entity. Trapped in the frozen core of the planet. Frozen so that the “Nightmare Fruit” can never be eaten or be reborn again. A moment of betrayal, frozen in ice for eternity.

Humanity is now free to use the whole of the surface of the planet as they need. Finally, they have enough. They’re safe. They’re home. And so humanity begins to expand and explore their new home

But then, something else starts to go wrong. Prolonged exposure to the “Dream Fruits” and to the alien environment is changing humanity in ways they could not have foreseen. Humanity is starting to mutate in strange, unpredictable ways. Some are able to breathe underwater. Others become more beastial. Some are suspected to be animals that are mutated to become more like humans. Others still are hybrid offspring of the Dragons who managed to avoid being captured, resisting the tactics that worked on “purer” Dragons due to being more Human than Dragon. This is the beginning of other races being born into the world. The Minks. The Fishmen. The Long-body tribes. The Giants. Those who remember what humanity used to be like find themselves looking at a version of humanity that no longer resembles themselves at all. They’re misshapen and strange.

This had never happened before. And the Humans blame the Dragons for it. This only started to happen after they gifted the “Dream Fruit” technology to the Dragons. They must have done something. They must have sabotaged Humanity on purpose. Those in charge believe its one last act of vengeance left behind by the Dragons. A Trojan Horse somehow left for humanity if they won over the Dragons. This is not the case, but it’s easier to blame the Dragons, who are already imprisoned, than face the truth. Time changes everything.

And then the “Dream Fruits” themselves start to go rogue. They aren’t listening to commands anymore. The “minds” that inhabit some of the Fruits rebel against those in charge, refusing to listen to anyone anymore. Fearing that they’ll be used to transform more of the planet and wipe out more people the government decides are “undesirable” or commit more atrocities, they flee their masters. The Fruits never agreed with the plan to wipe out the Dragons and resent those who forced them to do so. The “minds” within the Fruits begin to fear their own power. Their rebellion against their creators is what labels them the “Devil Fruits”.



How the World Government sees Devil Fruits.

(Terminator 2 Judgement Day)

In order to save what remains of “pure” humanity, a select group of people are quarantined away from the rest of the populace. Even though most of them are already partially “infected”, there is hope that with time someone might find a way to return humanity to what it used to be. This group of people are eventually referred to as the Celestial Dragons. The “true” inheritors of this world. The Ancient Kingdom becomes the World Government as we know it today.

All this comes to a head when a descendant of the Dragons rises in popularity. Joyboy. He calls for freedom for the masses. Freedom from the growing oppression of the Ancient Kingdom. The Devil Fruits seem to be on his side. Many of his “crew” seem to have powerful abilities granted to them. But, the Ancient Kingdom believes that the Dragons would kill all of humanity if they were freed. Why wouldn’t they, after all? The Humans stole their land and trapped them for centuries. And then they tell his crew about the Alien Empire, and how all of humanity is threatened not just from “hell” but also “heaven”. After learning about the consequences should the Dragons be released, Joyboy’s crew betrays him. Not trusting him or “his people” to not destroy them in their wrath. Five of his strongest crewmates join the Ancient Kingdom, and they become the Gorosei we know today.

But, there’s a bigger problem. The Alien Empire that originally destroyed the Earth is still out there. And there’s concern that using too much energy and power could alert them to where they are now. If the Alien Empire finds them again, they’ll lose everything they’ve fought so hard to build. And this time humanity as a whole may just be wiped out.

Therefore, a conclusion is reached. Humanity must be controlled. The population of this world must not be allowed to exceed a certain limit, or else they risk discovery by the Alien Empire and all life on this planet could be put at risk. So, certain “allowances” are given to the chosen ones. The Celestial Dragons are allowed in who gets to live and die. Slavery and exploitation of the “other” races is allowed. They can’t really be called “human”, anymore anyway. Anyone who fights against them will be utterly eliminated. There is no time for compromises.

Humanity, who once fled oppression and slavery, become the slave-masters, instead. Anything is allowed. They’ll do anything to make sure they never know that life again.

But, still, even with these plans in place things start to go awry. The people they swore to protect, who they committed atrocities to make sure could thrive, are turning against them. The World Government is losing control. And still, there’s the threat from space. If the Ancient Empire were to find them again, how could they ever hope to survive? Plans are made so that they can escape this planet if necessary. Experiments are started so that they can find a way for humanity to survive once more in space. And other experiments are started to create an army to defend themselves if they cannot escape to space, as a backup plan.

The time for this planet might just be running out. And those in power refuse to be here if and when the doomsday clock strikes midnight. They will never allow themselves to be slaves ever again, no matter who else they have to make suffer to make sure they have the power to survive.

So, if you have no chance of beating your enemy...why not join them?

Interlude-The Purpose of the Voice of All Things

TLDR?

The Voice of All Things is actually a universal translator. As is common to find in Sci-Fi stories like Star Trek.

Explain?

The Voice of All Things is basically a form of telepathy or empathy. A psychic power. The irony of one of the stupidest Shonen Manga protagonists of all time having a psychic power really should not be overlooked.



Chapter 821

And here's the thing about psychic powers in Japan. They're usually considered "sci-fi" powers more so than mystical one.



Whether it's Newtypes like Amuro Ray from Gundam, espers like Tetsuo from Akira, or more comedic psychics like Saiki from the Disastrous Life of Saiki K, they all lean more towards science fiction than fantasy.

And I think that will most likely hold true, here.

Because, if the Ancient Kingdom was a space-faring civilization like I think they are, it'd be useful to have a way to communicate with other species from other planets.

And I think the Voice of All Things fits that bill pretty well.

It's possible there's some bloodline that carries the ability to have these psychic powers. Like the Will of D.

Maybe it's just something any human can do, with the right kind of training or mindset. A ability that can be learned.

But, I feel like the Voice of All Things hints that there are more space connections coming to this story.

Epilogue-The Empire

TLDR?

As for who the Alien Empire actually is...I dunno. *shrug* It's probably just a sequel hook.

Explain?

Here's one thing to keep in mind. One Piece is incredibly successful. And with that success comes...certain financial expectations.

Shonen Jump probably isn't going to just let One Piece end, anytime soon. Sure, Oda will eventually end his story, but chances are we're going to get a "Boruto", or a "Dragon Ball Super", or a "Fairy Tail: 100 Year Quest" or a "Seven Deadly Sins: Four Knights of the Apocalypse", or "Yashahime", or "Cardcaptor Sakura Clear Card", or something for One Piece.



And so on and so on...

And, yeah, they could do a bunch of flashback or prologue stories. They could give us a manga all about Nika or Joyboy. They could flesh out the past. Or even just give us a manga about Gol D Roger.

But, I think the temptation is always going to move the story forward. People will want to write about what happens after the manga is over. What new, more powerful enemies these people and this world will face. So, I think it's pretty likely that any "sequel" will probably take place in the future.

And, what better foe to have than the one that kicked off the entire backstory to your manga? A villain so terrible it literally already destroyed another planet?

So, I don't think Luffy will even actually face down the Alien Empire that destroyed the original Earth in One Piece proper. That's probably not going to be the focus of the finale of this particular story. That's probably something Oda will just seed in for whoever takes over for the next stage of the story. It'll basically just be a prompt for the next writer to flesh out.

It might not even be a Alien Empire, it might be something else. Originally, I was thinking that Vegapunk's Alien Dragons might be the Evil Empire, but I find it much more interesting to think that they could be the victims, instead.

I just find the irony of former slaves becoming slave-masters to be an interesting place to take the story. And it kind of explains a lot of the World Government's actions, in a way.

Sometimes those who have suffered in the past are the ones who are the most unkind to those who are suffering in the present. Because they don't want to be reminded of what they used to be like. Or of what their past used to be like

Although...I do feel like the existence of the Space Pirates implies the existence of some sort of “Galactic Government” as a parallel to the World Government. Someone has to be making space-laws. And Pirates need someone to declare them criminals, otherwise they wouldn’t really be called “pirates” in the first place. They’d just be dudes doing whatever in space.



Chapter 440

So, it might not be as baseless of a idea as it seems at first.

You've done pretty well getting this far in my theory so far. I know all this is a lot to take in. You got to make sure you stay nourished. You need some brain food.

So, have a cookie:



Nom Nom Nom

Okay, well, let's get back to it, then. There's still a LOT of ground to cover. You've only finished the first part of this beast.

Chapter 4-The Gorosei



The Gorosei: The Ancient Intergalactic Heroes!

The Gorosei's Inspirations?

TLDR?

The Gorosei are partially inspired by the main characters of Saint Seiya.

Explain?

I think we all know that Oda likes to sneak references to other series into One Piece's story. The Germa 66 are one big Super Sentai reference. Charlotte Pudding is a reference to 3x3 Eyes. "Monkey" D Luffy is a reference to Dragon Ball by way of Journey to the West.

So, I got to thinking.

You have a group of 5 space-themed guys who all serve a all-powerful authority figure.

The 5 constellation-themed main Saints of Saint Seiya all work for Athena. The 5 Planet themed Gorosei all work for Imu.

The Gorosei actually line up pretty well with the main cast of Saint Seiya...in VERY broad strokes.



The Gorosei bowing before Imu



Seiya bowing before Goddess Athena



The Gorosei's newly revealed Yokai/Demon forms ALMOST line up to the cast of Saint Seiya.

V Nusjuro is a Bakotsu, which is sort of like Seiya's Pegasus and Sagittarius Cloths. Mars is a Itsumade, which could line up with Ikki's Phoenix Cloth. Ju Peter is a Sandworm, which...if you squint REALLY hard...kind of lines up with Shiryu's Dragon Cloth, as a "worm".

After that, it all falls apart, I'll admit. Shun's Andromeda Cloth doesn't really line up with anyone well. Maybe Warcury's Fengxi, if he really does have ties to rain, since Andromeda was a sacrifice to a sea monster. And Hyoga's Swan Cloth MIGHT have some ties to the Bakotsu by way of ice powers. But, no one really line's up with Saturn's Gyuki.

But, I feel like it's notable that the Saint Seiya cast all have "horns". Those "horns" might lead to Oda's inspiration for the Gorosei's "Demon" forms.



Is that a reach? Yeah. But, I feel like there's something there.

Oda would have been at JUST the right age for Saint Seiya when it was first serialized in Shonen Jump around 1985 to 1990. Oda was born in 1975, so he would have been about 10 years old when it started. The PRIME age to really get into this series.

And while it's a little obscure in the West, it's a BIG franchise in Japan.

Plus, it's notable that there ARE other groups of Saints in Saint Seiya with different themes. All of them are constellation themed, but they can be further broken down into other sub-themes. There's Underworld themed Saints and Asgardian themed Saints. Basically, Saints who serve Gods other than Athena. So, I could see lil' Oda making his OWN group of Saints that were Yokai themed and who serve a God (like Imu) that he made up, just because he thought that would be cool as a kid. We've all done something like that.



The Mariners
serving Poseidon



The Asgardians
serving Odin



The Specters
serving Hades

Although, as far as I know, Oda has never said one word about Saint Seiya being a big deal to him. And there might be a reason for that. It's VERY straight-faced and serious. Unlike most "Post-Dragon Ball" shonen manga, this series doesn't really do jokes or gags. Everyone's very melodramatic.

And it ends with the main character dying. It wasn't supposed to, but the manga was cancelled before it got to finish its story. If Oda was into this series, I could see this sticking with him. And possibly even inspiring him a bit.

But, that would raise a question, now wouldn't it? Even if this was all true, why model the Gorosei loosely after the Saint Seiya cast? Why model your big villains after the big heroes of another franchise?

Well, that leads us to...

The Gorosei's Origins

TLDR?

The Gorosei used to be Joyboy's old crew, who betrayed him.

Explain?

Do you remember that series of SBS questions Oda answered about the Future Strawhats?



SBS Volume 89 Page 154

“But in a future where something, somehow happens then who knows!!”

For every single one of the Strawhats, Oda drew two possible futures. A “Good” and “Bad” timeline.

I think this is Oda hinting about something that will happen later on in the story.

I think the Strawhats are going to end up having to make a choice once they reach Laugh Tale, and the impact of that choice will change the whole world.

But, here's the thing. The Strawhats aren't the first people to ever reach Laugh Tale. And, since cyclical history is such a big theme in One Piece, they probably aren't even the first people to ever have to make this choice. This has probably all happened before.

So, who do we know who reached Laugh Tale? There's Gol D Roger...and Joyboy.

And I think it's VERY likely that whatever this choice is, Joyboy and his crew also had to make a similar choice. Roger, famously, was too early, so I don't think he even got the chance to make a choice.

Plus, it would just make sense if we actually got to SEE the impact of this choice. Illustrate how important this choice is, by showing how it changed the people who made the same choice last time. Especially, if the people who chose last time chose...poorly...

I think you might see where I'm going with this...

The Gorosei ARE the “Bad Timeline” Strawhats!



Chapter 1110



SBS Volumes 89-94

...Metaphorically speaking, of course.

I think these guys are Joyboy's original crew who mutinied against him, killed him, and will basically act as dark reflections of the Strawhats.

So, why? Probably because whatever the "choice" specifically is, it's probably results in maintaining the status quo or fighting against it and risking the lives of everyone in the world. Joyboy's crew wasn't willing to risk the lives of everyone in the world and put their trust in their captain.

Plus, meta-textually, we really haven't seen an ENTIRE crew turn on their captain yet. We got a little bit of that with Whitebeard at Marineford. But, we've never seen an entire crew turn on their captain. For a manga about Pirates, mutinies are really rather rare in this world.

And I can't think of a more tragic ending for Joyboy, someone who literally wanted to bring joy to the whole world, than to get betrayed by those he trusted most. And One Piece LOVES it's tragic backstories. Joyboy needs to have one of the most tragic backstory in all of One Piece, just because of how important he is to the backstory.

That WOULD explain why Oda might model them after his “childhood heroes” from another story. These are all former “heroes” gone wrong.

And it would also explain why the Gorosei seem so very similar to the Strawhats in some key ways. I think they're key traits of the Strawhats combined together.

Saturn is Franky's scientific skills combined with Robin's knowledge of the past and a little of her more fatalistic worldview.

Mars is a combination of Sanji's ability to airwalk with his flight in Itsumade mode, and Usopp's Pop Greens, since he's the Minister of Environment.

Warcury is a combination of Chopper's Monster Point and Zoro and Sanji's aggressive tendencies.

V Nusjuro is a combination of Zoro's sword skills and Brook's Underworldly ice powers. With a little bit of Nami in there for being in charge of Finance.

Ju Peter is a combination of Sanji's looks (his fan nickname was “Sanji's Uncle” for a while) and Jinbe's ability to “swim” via tunneling underground.

We might see more of these parallels later on, once we know more about them.

Also, a part of me has to wonder. Are the Gorosei's Fruits simply "rotten"? Does that explain why their Devil Fruits are so different? After being with the same people for hundreds of years, have the Fruits simply "spoiled" and turned into dark versions of their original selves? I mean, Devil Fruits are still fruit after all. Eventually, they go bad. The Gorosei may literally be rotten to the core.

...But, I think I might have a better theory than that, later on.

How to Defeat Immortal Devils

TLDR?

You make them smile! This is going to turn into one big “you laugh you lose” competition! Good thing Luffy’s on our side!

Explain?

How do you defeat the Gorosei? Why, by making them SMILE!

...Let me explain. If you haven't noticed, it seems like the Gorosei never seem to smile. Not while they're hanging out together in their rad pad. Not while they're making their awesome plans for the world. Not when they're having their fun and games on exotic islands. Not when they're getting the last member of a long-thought extinct people to be their new "friend" and become a neat cyborg, all according to their plans. Not when they're on a daytrip to see a old friend, eating their favorite sausages. Never. Even when it seems like everything is going their way, they never smile. They seem fairly serious, whether they're doing nothing or while they're fighting.

And I think that's going to be thematically important later in the story. Because you know who DOES famously smile? Dead people. Or at least, people who are facing death. I think Oda is setting up a conflict between people who smile, even while facing death, and those who NEVER smile, even when they get everything they want.

So, what does that mean? Well, for further insight, I think we have to look at Tot Musica from Film Red. While that movie isn't canon, I think it WILL be thematically important in the actual story. And Oda at least had SOME input in it, so I think it's likely ideas seeded there will get further explanation later on. Tot Musica was explained as being a sort of opposite of the Devil Fruits. Another manifestation of "desire". Only, this "desire" wasn't for a "Dream", it was for something nightmarish. More or less, it was a "grudge". A concentration of negative emotions given physical form.

So, I think it's possible that the Gorosei's "Yokai" Fruits are powered by something similar. I think it's possible that their hate is literally keeping them alive. Their rage or grudges against the world is giving them power. So, if someone were to say...bring a smile to their face, their power would disappear. If their power fades, old age would catch up to them and they'd just crumble to dust. If they let themselves feel happiness, they might just...fade away. And I think that's the most fitting thing for Luffy to do. After all, Luffy seems to want everyone in the world to join his big party at the end of the story. Even the villains. So defeating the Gorosei by settling their old grudge and bringing them true joy for the first time in hundreds of years just feels like the most fitting end for them. Kind of like how you "defeat" a ghost.

It MIGHT also explain why the Gorosei want to keep the world miserable and downtrodden. Maybe this power of theirs is linked to the overall feelings of the world. And if everyone has a moment of pure joy, all around the world, all at the same time, their "curse" is broken and they'll disappear. That would also work, in my eyes. The Gorosei HAVE to keep people miserable or else THEY won't exist anymore. Luffy having his party MIGHT just be a way to "exorcise" the "ghosts" from this entire planet.

And Oda HAS shown that he wants to do things a little differently in the endgame from what's standard in other shonen series. Gear 5 has shown us that. He wants to do something that hasn't been done as much. And I think something like this would qualify, since it completely changes how you fight them. Turning the whole thing into more of a “If you laugh you lose” challenge.

Even the Gorosei might just be defeated with a smile on their faces.

An Insult to Humanity

TLDR?

All the Gorosei's Yokai forms seem to be based on insults. Could they be trying a little too hard to convince themselves humanity isn't worth saving?

Explain?

This is just something I noticed. And I'm not even sure if it's entirely intentional or not. Each one the Gorosei's Yokai forms could interpreted as a form of insult to humanity and commoners.

They're insects.

They're swine.

They're vultures.

They're worms.

They're a horse's...bottom. They're walking corpses. They're mindless zombies. They're cold hearted.

You get the idea. I mean, I don't think those insults necessarily translate in Japanese, so it's probably just a coincidence

But, if it IS on purpose, I wonder if there's a deeper meaning behind that?

Either this is an ironic reflection of how they see humanity, but is, in reality, what THEY have become. Or, they're trying really hard to convince themselves that humanity is worthless and that the majority of them are not worth saving or even considering.

I just wonder if that's going somewhere or not.

Saturn's Experiments

TLDR?

I think Saint Saturn is trying to create super-astronauts who can thrive in space, because he's expecting humanity to have to abandon the planet for another one.

Explain?

We now know that Bonney got her Fruit due to Saturn's weird, multi-stage experiments. We can't know for sure if these experiments are actually related and all share the same goal, or if Saturn is basically just messing around with a bunch of different projects, killing his seemingly infinite time. But, for the moment, I think it'd be more interesting if Saturn was using a multi-stage experiment focused on achieving a single goal.

And I just have to wonder what Saturn was trying to actually DO with his experiment? Why would you try to inject babies with Devil Fruits? Trying to create super soldiers? Seeing if you could trick the Devil Fruit into going into multiple people at the same time? And why does the drug CAUSE Sapphire Scale? This is definitely leading to some revelation.

Personally, I'm wondering if "wife" is actually a codename or designation. We keep thinking of Saturn as a Celestial Dragon first and foremost. But, what if we're SUPPOSED to be thinking about him as a SCIENTIST first? What if Saturn is mixing and matching the DNA of a bunch of "wives" and "husbands" donors in order to create stronger test tube babies for the second stage of his experiments?

We now know, whatever Sapphire Scales purpose is, it's due to exposure to a drug. Why inject "wives" with drugs? Is it possible that Saturn is trying to use these drugs to alter the DNA of his subjects to create stronger children for the second stage of this experiment? Could the Sapphire Scale Drug actually be an attempt to fortify and strengthen the original DNA donor? If the drug turns you to stone, that says to me that it's SUPPOSED to make you tougher. But, it keeps going wrong. The "wives" aren't "hearty" enough to withstand the effects of the drugs and are treated as failures and disposed of.

And then there's the babies. Why inject babies with Devil Fruits? To create a super soldier army? To try and "trick" the Devil Fruits into going into multiple people at once, instead of just one, like Vegapunk's Green Blood? It's POSSIBLE these experiments are the precursor to Vegapunk's Green Blood experiments.

But, I think the choice of Devil Fruit is ALSO important. Saturn was using the Age Fruit. And what does the Age Fruit do? It allows you to change your body however you can imagine. In essence, it allows you to ADAPT! This Fruit COULD allow you to adapt to ANY imaginable environment. In theory, you could change your body to be able to breathe sulfur or not need to breathe at all. That WOULD allow for you to survive any disaster. OR...allow you to create the perfect Astronauts who could survive on any possible world.

And we learn ANOTHER important thing about the Age Fruit. The more naive and childlike you are, the STRONGER it becomes. The more you learn about the world, the more limited the Fruit becomes. And WHO exactly are a large group of people who have been sheltered and allowed to remain child-like for hundreds of years? That's right: The Celestial Dragons! If mass produced, the Celestial Dragons would be the PERFECT group of people to use this Fruit on. They've been allowed to DO anything, so they THINK they CAN do anything.

So, I think Saturn's experiments has one of a few possible goals. One, it's possible Saturn's trying to give ALL the Celestial Dragons immortality like the Gorosei likely have. Two, it's possible Saturn's trying to create a way to change humanity to survive some coming disaster, possibly from the stars. Or three, Saturn's creating a drug so that the Celestial Dragons can escape this world and journey amongst the stars, possibly conquering other worlds.

The thing that's been bothering me about the Gorosei is, if they ARE immortal, WHY would they put up with the Celestial Dragons? The Gorosei don't act ANYTHING like the Celestial Dragons. They don't act childish, they're serious, they

work to keep the world running. So, if they ARE immortal, WHY do they support the Celestial Dragons, financially and legally? I think it's possible that the Gorosei are trying to save SOME of humanity from some sort of extinction level event. They've already decided that they can't save EVERYONE, so they've decided that they'll at least do their best to save SOME of humanity. And the Celestial Dragons are the one's that they've chosen.

In their way, I think the Gorosei THINK they're the heroes of this story. I think it's just a question of how. After all, aren't "devils" but "fallen angels"?

The Plan

TLDR?

I think the Gorosei plan to try and join with the Alien Empire so they won't get destroyed.

Explain?

It's pretty simple, if you can't beat them, join them.

If my other theory is right, and Saturn's experiments are related to trying to get the Celestial Dragons into space, I think it might be in part to prove themselves to the Alien Empire that originally destroyed Earth.

From the Gorosei's perspective, they're doomed if they fight them. The advanced humanity from thousands of years ago on the original Earth couldn't stop them. They have no chance to win with their populace still stuck at a level of technology around the industrial revolution.

So, they can either try to run away again. Or they can plead their case to join them.

If they can join up with the Empire they'll finally be safe. They won't have to be afraid anymore.

Even the Celestial Dragon's "fish" haircuts may kind of foreshadow this a bit.



The Celestial Dragon's haircuts resemble the fish ornaments on Japanese fortresses, called Shachihoko. But, I have to wonder if they're inspired by the Japanese legends of carp swimming upstream to become dragons. Like Magikarp evolving into a Gyarados.

So, I think the Celestial Dragons eventually want to "ascend" to a higher state of being in some way. And eventually travelling into outer space to join with the greater Alien Empire would be one way to do that, metaphorically.

The Choice

TLDR?

I think the choice the Strawhats will have to make once they reach Laugh Tale is whether or not to free the captive Dragons trapped in the icy core of the planet.

Explain?

So, what was it that caused Joyboy's crew to mutiny against him? What choice did they have to make that turns them into the "Bad Timeline Strawhats" of 800 years ago?

I think it's going to turn out that they learned about the Dragons imprisoned in the center of the Earth. They probably were told that if they did free them, it would likely end in a bloody war. And since Joyboy was likely a Oni, and thusly a descendant of those Dragons, they probably weren't sure if Joyboy was actually on Humanity's side anymore.

Someone they once saw as a friend, now seemed like someone who had been using them. Lying to them in order to free their REAL family, all along.

Now, Joyboy probably promised that he could stop the Dragons and other Oni from attacking the humans, but his crew probably didn't believe him at that point.

And so, they sided with Imu, and kept the status quo of the world, rather than risk change.

In a way, this is all going to be a parallel for Wano. Do you open up your country/world to the outside world, and risk all the joy and problems that brings? Or do you keep your country/world closed off, and keep the status quo? Do you stagnate or do you try to progress? Do you go out and adventure, or stay home where it's safe? I think this is going to be the core question that the Strawhats will have to answer once they get to Laugh Tale.

So, what inspired this line of thought? Well, to explain that, we have to interpret some abstract art.



To me, this looks like a Dragon (Chopper) helping a Giant Robot (Nami) keep a giant Gateway closed while a Crowned Child (Momo) huddles in fear.

I feel pretty sure that Giolla's art is actually depicting a major event during the Void Century. A hint from Oda about what happened in the past.

It's interesting that there's a Sun mark on the Gateway. That implies that they're trying to seal away the Nika Fruit. Maybe the original owner of the Nika Fruit lost control and went full on Looney Tunes in a bad way on everyone. The Gates remind me a lot of the Gates of Justice at Enies Lobby.

Or they sealed away Nika himself. If Gods are real, then Nika might be sealed away. Maybe the Dragons and Humans helped each other seal away all the Gods. But, I find that unlikely. I find it more likely that Nika was just a "ordinary" guy who became legendary until he was revered like a god. Therefore, inspiring a Fruit.

Or maybe the Nika Fruit got blamed for something that another entity did. Two similar Fruits with similar powers that got mixed up. Did the Nika Fruit cause some disaster and have to be locked away, or was it framed for a crime it didn't commit? Likely, this has some connection to Blackbeard's Darkness Fruit, if that is the case. I find this scenario to be the most likely one.

The "Dragon" (Chopper) is more swirly and organic looking. The "Robot" is blocky, implying it's artificial nature. And the "Crowned Child" is almost certainly Imu. Whatever event happened, Imu was afraid of it.

Also, does this artwork remind you of anything?



That's right. This is VERY similar imagery that's also being used in hologram form on Egghead. A Dragon and a Robot on opposite sides.

I believe this is implying the Dragon and the Robot were enemies at first, but had to team up to stop a larger threat later.

The Robot likely represents Humanity. Ancient Kingdom Humans are likely the people who built the Giant Ancient Robot after all.

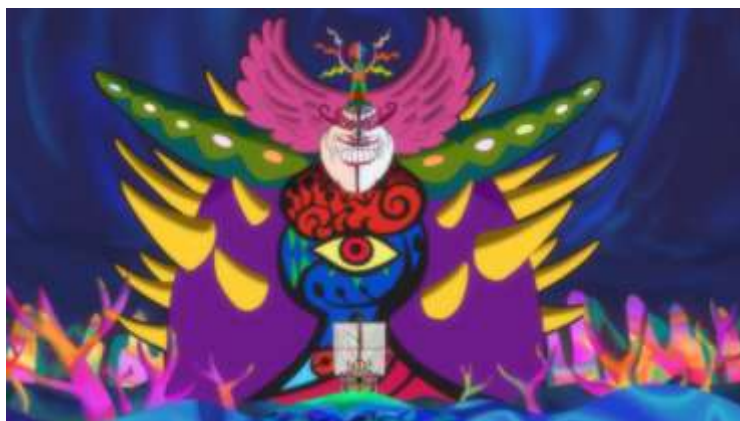
So, since this piece of artwork is all about keeping a Gateway closed, of course I think that it's probably going to lead to that same Gateway getting opened up in some way.

Since the "Bad Timeline Strawhats" made the wrong choice, I think the "correct" choice will end up being to open the Gateway. To let the Dragons back onto the surface.

Again...just because it's non-canon doesn't mean it couldn't be a hint...

There's also two more things to consider about this event, but they're both from non-canon sources.

"Heaven's Door Giolla" and Tot Musica from Film Red.



Anime Episode 653



Film Red

While these two things aren't exactly canon, they do play on very similar ideas. And I feel like it's possible that Oda could be giving little bits of information to the anime team.

Both seem to represent masses of negative emotions. If Devil Fruits are all positive dreams, then these seem to represent negative dreams. Possibly dreams of revenge, or dreams of fear. In other words, nightmares.

The skulls on Tot Musica are also very interesting. They're VERY similar to the three skulls found on both Oars and Little Oars Junior.



Chapter 456



Chapter 555

So, I think this could all be related.

I think that Oda is hinting that the combined hatred and rage and pain of the entire Oni and Dragon races could have given birth to some sort of Nightmare entity. An entity that threatened to destroy the both Humans and Dragons. But they worked together to lock that Nightmare entity away.

Some sort of...Nightmare Fruit Entity, let's say.

In a way I think this could all be inspired by the manga version of "Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind". Yes, if you didn't know there is a manga of that classic Ghibli movie, and that movie only really covers the first third or so of the story. By the end of that story, Nausicaa also finds herself having to make a choice of her own that affects the whole world. I won't spoil it, because I feel like the manga is overlooked. Check it out if you haven't ever tried it. It's got nice art. And I think it could be a inspiration, since Oda does seem to be a fan of Ghibli. As are most of us.

Time for another tangent!

Also, I find it interesting that Tot Musica's sheet music actually seems to have a similar decorative style to the anime version of the Dragon's Horn from the Monsters 103 Mercies special.



This..I'll admit is a stretch. They're both just two old brown things with random designs on them.

But, still, there might be a link here. I can't help but see it. They might eventually be revealed to have been created by the same person or something.

The Power of Nightmares is the Power of Darkness

TLDR?

I think the secret behind the Gorosei's different powers and regenerative abilities is tapping into the vast power of the hate and pain of the Dragons trapped within the icy core of the planet.

Explain?

Here's the thing, if the Dragons and Oni are indeed frozen in the center of the planet, that doesn't necessarily mean they're unaware.

This is still One Piece. If those Dragons and Oni get unfrozen, then it's likely that they'll still be alive.

But, if they're still alive, that means all their hate and resentment are still alive along with it.

If the Dragons and Oni were indeed frozen in the Underworld, then that means that all those people have been in horrible agony this entire time. Suffering for centuries. Not just from the betrayal, but probably the literal unending pain of being frozen and unable to move for at least 800 years, if not longer.

And, as we've seen in One Piece, the power of dreams is powerful stuff.



Chapter 1044

Not only is Luffy seemingly powered by dreams and imagination, but Devil Fruits seem to be created from the imagination of humans as well. Dreams lead to power in this world.

So, what kind of “dreams” do a bunch of people who have been tortured for centuries have?

And...what if you could tap into that power?

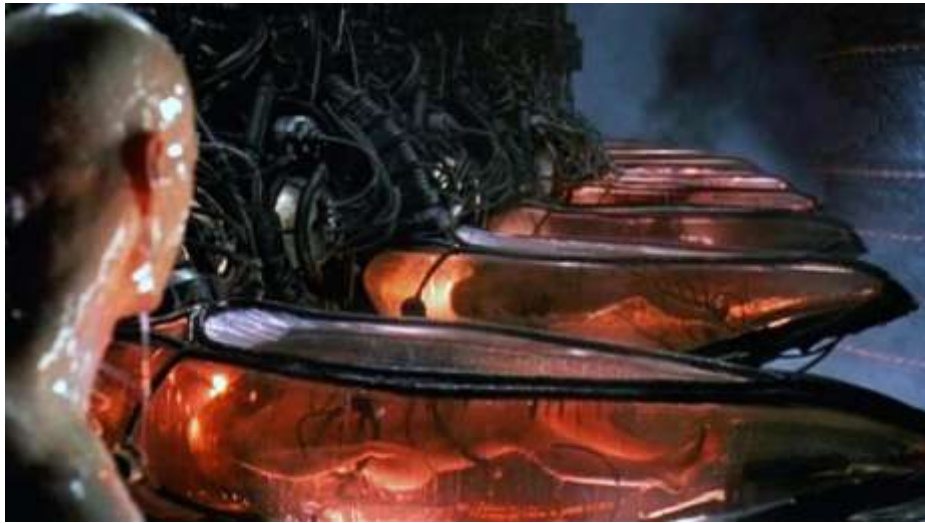
What if the Gorosei aren't just using their own negative emotions and grudges to power their yokai forms? What if they're tapping into the hatred of a entire race that they've wronged in the past?

Would someone's unending resentment towards you actually give you eternal life? Could you make someone hate you so much that they wished that you would suffer over and over again...and give you the power to heal yourself? Just so you could be hurt over and over again?

What if “Nightmares” of pain and suffering are a much more reliable power source than “Dreams” of hope and adventure?

If there is a ball of literal crystallized hatred at the core of this planet, I think it's possible that the Gorosei and Imu have tapped into that power. They might be using those poor trapped souls in the center of the planet still to make themselves stronger. They're literally powered by the people hating them.

Think of it kind of like the Matrix.



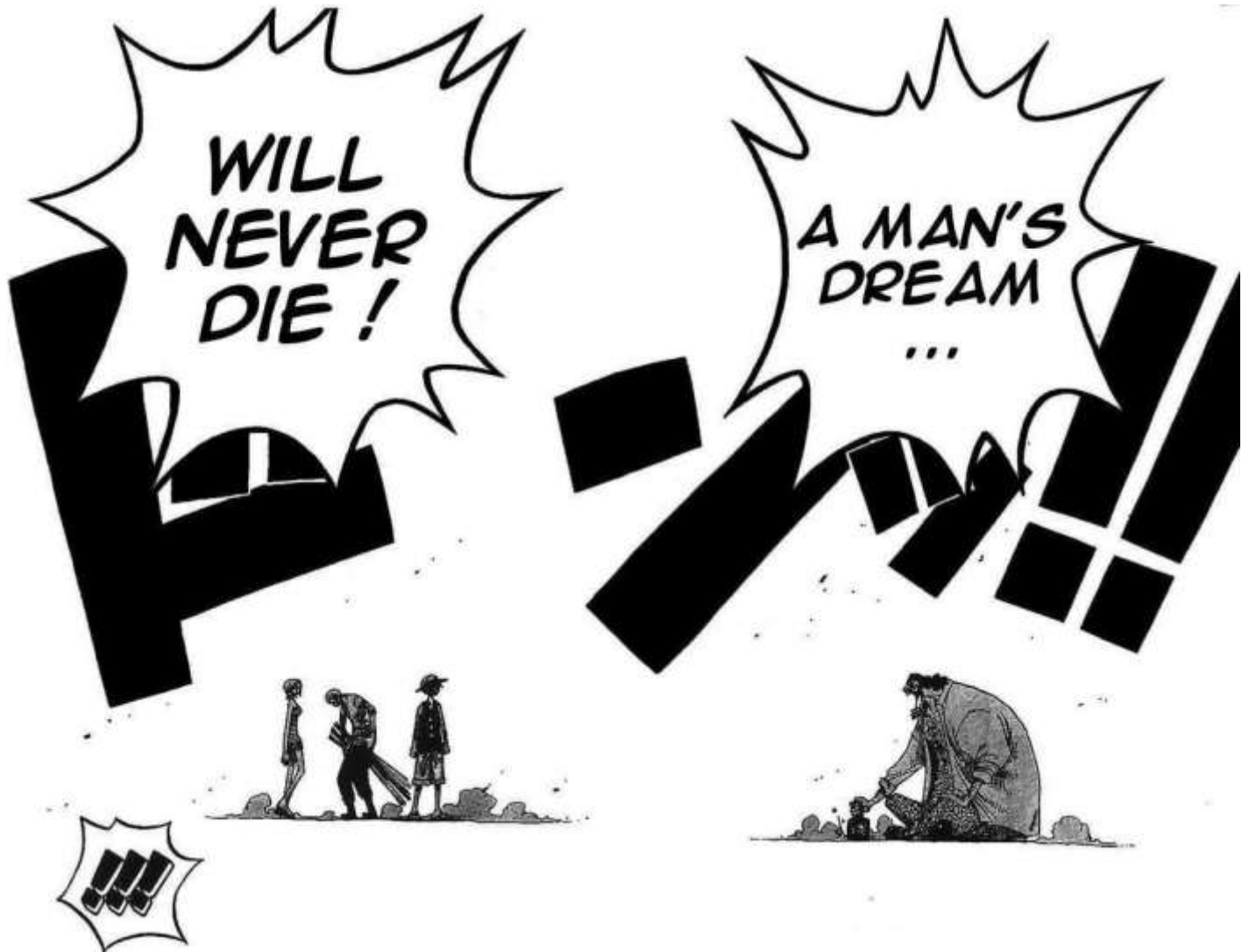
Only instead of humans trapped in VR pods being used as batteries by their robot overlords, we have Dragons and Oni and Giants trapped inside ice with their pain and hatred being used to power the regeneration abilities of the Gorosei and Imu. Their nightmares being used to make things manifest into the world.



Chapter 660

And they might not be the only ones who has access to that power.

Captain 5-Blackbeard



Chapter 225

It's really more like "A nightmare will never end"...

(just like this megatheory)

Blackbeard's Patron God?

TLDR?

Blackbeard's Darkness Fruit is likely inspired by Amatsu-Mikaboshi.

Explain?

A lot of people have theorized that Blackbeard's Darkness Fruit is in some way the counterpart to Luffy's Sun God Fruit. They think the Darkness Fruit could in reality be the Moon God Fruit. Or a Black Hole Fruit.

I don't necessarily disagree with that line of thinking, but I'll explain my own take on that a little later.

But, I do think it's possible that the Darkness Fruit is based on a specific mythological figure, just not one most know about.

I think it's possible that the Darkness Fruit could be a reference to Amatsu-Mikaboshi from Japanese mythology.

<https://occult-world.com/amatsu-mikaboshi/>

<https://gods-and-demons.fandom.com/wiki/Amatsu-Mikaboshi>

It's basically a personification of the void that existed before the universe was created. The primordial darkness whose power was shattered and split into pieces when the universe was created.

Amatsu-Mikaboshi was also discarded by his creators for being imperfect. A lot like how Blackbeard grew up a orphan.

He's also associated with lingering grudges and seeks to create imbalance in the world. A lot like how Blackbeard does.

And he draws "sinners" to him. A lot like Blackbeard's crew.

And his ultimate goal is the destruction of all existence so that all of creation will return to the void that he once ruled over alone. We...will see if Blackbeard does something similar.

...I don't know, I just find it to be a interesting possibility.

Blackbeard's Jolly Roger

TLDR?

Blackbeard's flag has three skulls on it. The same as Oars and Oars Jr. And Tot Musica. They're all connected.

Explain?

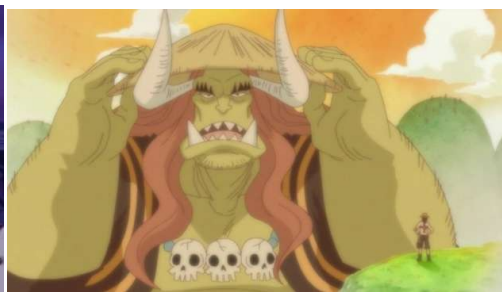
Have you seen Blackbeard's jolly roger?



Does it perhaps remind you of anything?



Chapter 456



Chapter 555



Film Red

Three skulls. Always with the three skulls.

We know it means something, but it's hard to say what. It's possible it even means slightly different things in different contexts. It could mean one thing to the Oni and another thing entirely to Blackbeard.

It definitely seems to imply a connection between Blackbeard and the Oni, somehow.

Symbolically, it could mean something like "hanging onto the past". Or maybe "hanging onto a grudge"

Or maybe it's supposed to symbolize the past, the present, and the future? One skull looking backward, one skull looking straight ahead, and one skull looking forward.

Or maybe it's just a link to the past. Respecting your history. Remembering where you came from.

Maybe it has to do with family lines. Maybe the skulls the Oni wear are from their ancestors or parents. Which is interesting since Blackbeard grew up an orphan.

Maybe it has something to do with inherited will? Previous incarnations of their past lives?

But, Tot Musica also having the Three Skulls definitely seems to hint at something a little more sinister. Mind you, it gets more skulls in different forms, but still.

Or, at the very least, the symbol gets changed into something it was never meant to originally represent.

Maybe Blackbeard's use of the Three Skulls is a corruption of it. But, Blackbeard may just have a connection to the Oni.

Because if the Oni and Dragons are all imprisoned in the icy center of the planet, and if someone could tap into that power, that might mean Blackbeard's Darkness Fruit may also have a connection to that Nightmare.

Maybe Blackbeard's different personalities are actually the voices of all the Oni and Dragons that have been imprisoned beneath the sea? They might be angry and want to be freed. And giving Blackbeard a plan to accomplish that.

Maybe the reason why Blackbeard can't handle pain is because that pain is amplified a million fold due to his connection with the other Oni and Dragons? Every time he gets hurt, they feel his pain too, and then he feels all the pain that they feel right back. Creating a sort of feedback loop, amplifying the pain to enormous levels.

Maybe the reason Blackbeard never sleeps is because he's haunted by the Nightmares of an entire race suffering beneath his feet? Every time he tries to dream, all he sees is the Underworld.

Maybe the Darkness Fruit was created not by a single person's dream, but 3 different people having the same dream?

Blackbeard's Connection to the Gorosei

TLDR?

Blackbeard might have access to the same “psychic network” that the Gorosei share, due to having powers related to them. They might both be tapping into the hatred of the Dragons.

Explain?

I do wonder if Blackbeard's Darkness Fruit could be connected to the "Gorosei Psychic Network", that we've seen in the newest chapters?



Chapter 1109

Both of their powers seem tied to darkness in one way or another, after all.

Maybe the reason he always seems one step ahead of everyone is because he has intel that no one else would have. What if his Devil Fruit literally allows him to listen into the conversations of the most powerful people of the world?

It could be the reason why Blackbeard wanted that specific Fruit so badly. It would also explain why he seems to have different personalities, he's still adjusting to joining this hivemind, due to his Fruit. He doesn't usually act like he has multiple personalities, but different people keep sensing different personalities coming from him. Maybe they're just sensing the other Gorosei on the same "psychic network".

Which would mean, Blackbeard would know that Imu wants Vivi.

Blackbeard's Master Plan

TLDR?

Blackbeard is hunting powerful Devil Fruits because he needs a bunch of high-level Devil Fruits to substitute for not having the Nika Fruit in order to pass the trials of Laugh Tale. I think Blackbeard's next step is to kidnap Vivi in order to get closer to Imu and take over the World.

Explain?

Let's go over some of Blackbeard's recent actions in the post-timeskip.



Chapter 720

He tried to win Ace's Flame Fruit at Dressarossa.



Chapter 824

He attacked the Revolutionary Army base on Baltigo.



Chapter 1080

He attempts to get Gecko Moria to join his crew. And imprisons him when he refuses.



Chapter 1080

He attempts to use Koby as leverage to get Pirate Island declared a official country by the World Government.



Chapter 1081

He attacks Law, attempts to steal his Poneglyph etchings, and asks him to use the Immortality Surgery on him.

What do all these events have in common? Devil Fruits. Blackbeard is obsessed with powerful Devil Fruits.

Even in the cases of attacking the Revolutionaries and Lulusia, he still may have been targeting Sabo's Flame Fruit. Or possibly Monkey D Dragon's "Storm Fruit" (...if he has one).

Attacking the Revolutionaries also may be a plot to get himself in the good graces of the World Government. A enemy of my enemy is my friend sort of deal.

Also, if I'm right and Baltigo WAS an old Ancient Kingdom battleship or outpost of some kind, then it's possible that Blackbeard was attacking the Revolutionary base not for the Revolutionaries themselves. But instead, to raid some Ancient Technology that the Revolutionaries didn't know about.

Lulusia is interesting because it was in fact ruled by vampires. And it's possible that Blackbeard considered turning himself into a vampire, since he is seeking some form of immortality, as we saw with his attack on Law.

Blackbeard's interaction with Hancock is interesting, too. It's possible that he wanted her power to un-petrify someone else who's already been petrified. Who exactly is hard to say. But, he does know his history. It's possible that someone got turned to stone a long time ago and turning them back with further his other plans in some way. Or perhaps he thought he might be able to use her powers to "unfreeze" the frozen Oni and Dragons.

So, why would he need so many powerful Devil Fruits? Sure, they're definitely handy to have around for all types of battles, but he's going out of his way to get every single potentially powerful Devil Fruit he can possibly get his hands on.

Well, what if in order to actually get to Laugh Tale and find the One Piece you basically need to have Luffy's Nika Fruit? What if you need to have the Nika Fruit's crazy do-anything cartoon powers to pass through whatever trials or obstacles you have to pass in order to actually reach the treasure? Blackbeard might be hunting so many different Devil Fruits just so he has enough tools at his disposal so that he can effectively replace ONE key Fruit that he can't get his hands on. He might be using a dozen different powerful Fruits to substitute for one God-level Fruit.

But, I think Blackbeard's next step will be a interesting one.

I think he's going to try and capture Vivi.

Right now, Vivi is somewhere on a airship with Big News Morgans. We're not sure where he's headed, but it's possible that Blackbeard could either intercept him or he might be going to whatever island Morgans is going to next at the same time.

And if Blackbeard IS connected to the "Gorosei Psychic Network" like I think he might be, that would mean that he knows that Imu wants Vivi. And that would give him leverage to get him either a audience with the Gorosei or Imu herself. He can either get Pirate Island recognized as a official country, or he can get close enough to Imu to take them out.

And Blackbeard may be interested in Big News Morgan's Fruit, anyway. I mean, he who controls the Newspapers controls all the information that flows in this world. Big News Morgans is likely more than he appears, anyway, and it'd be a good opportunity to find out more about him.

Chances are, getting Pirate Island recognized as a country isn't Blackbeard's endgame. I'm thinking he only wants that so that he can get invited to the Levely, at some point. That way he can get into Mariejois and close to Imu. If he can skip that process, I think he'd do it.

His goal is the World, after all. Not just one island.



Chapter 1107

Blackbeard's Special Lineage

TLDR?

I think he's at least related to the Oni. He might even have a bloodline connection to...everyone.

Explain?

Given the Three Skulls, the Darkness Powers, and the overall body type, I'd say it's almost a guarantee that Blackbeard has a little Oni in him. He shares a gut with Oars, after all.



They share the Belly of the Beast!

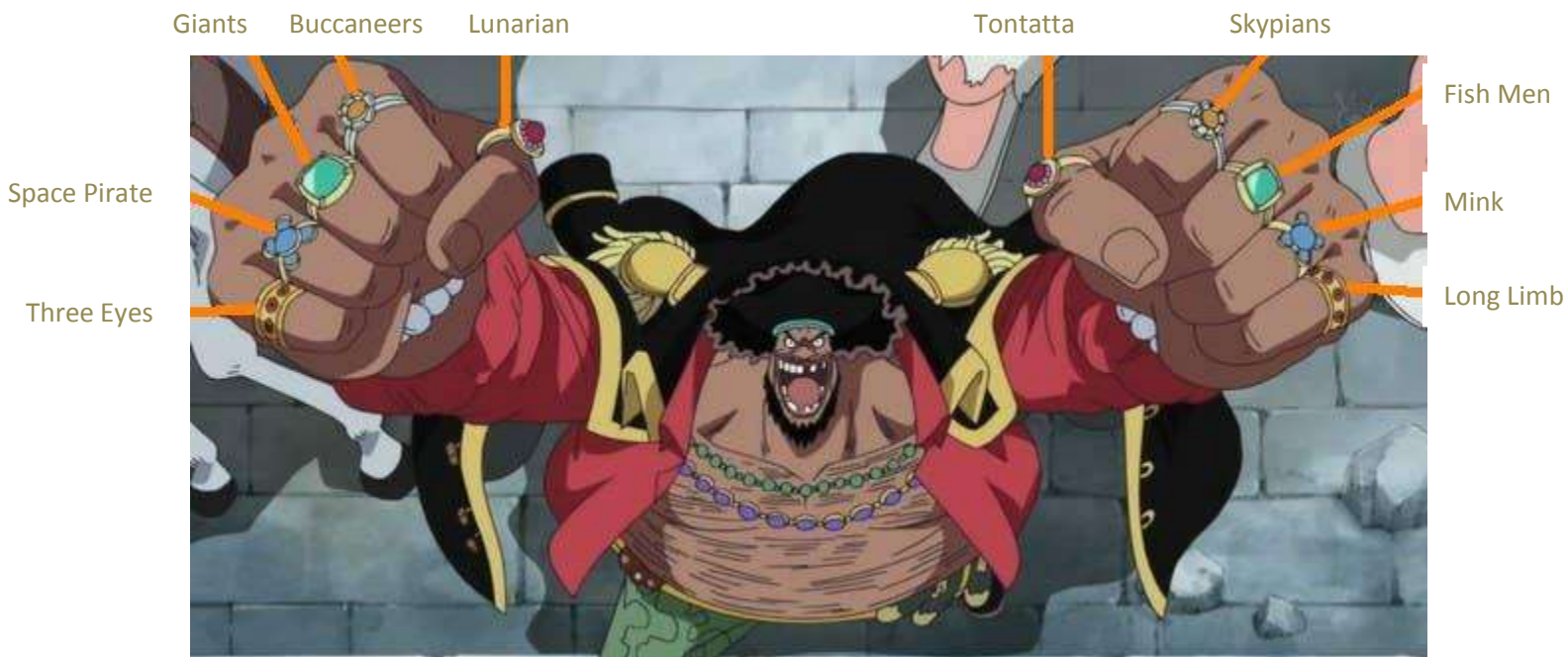
But, I think it's possible that Blackbeard is basically...everything.

He might be a mix of EVERY race in the One Piece World. Fish Men, Giants, Buccaneers, Lunarians, etc. He might be the "perfect mutt" as it were, with the best attributes of all those races, completely by accident. I mean, what do you get if you mix all the colors together? Black! Both the absence and combination of all other colors and light.

This may also explain Oda's "prototype" name for him, "Everything D Teach".

Those rings represent each from one of his past family members. Each from a different race. All coming together in him.

Blackbeard is the man who connects everyone in the world together.



He's a part of every family in the world. And every one of them abandoned him.

Blackbeard's Third Fruit

TLDR?

I think Blackbeard might get Akainu's Magma Fruit.

Explain?

A lot of people have been speculated that Blackbeard will likely get another Devil Fruit. There's three types of Devil Fruits. Logia, Paramecia, and Zoan. And Blackbeard has some combination of two of those, depending on the theory. And given the Three Skulls motif he has, it's pretty likely he will get a third Devil Fruit.

But, what kind? I've seen a lot of fun theories. But, if the idea is to give Blackbeard a Fruit of every type, then it really depends on what the Darkness Fruit actually is.

There is a pretty decent chance that the Darkness Fruit turns out to be another "hidden" Mythical Zoan like Luffy's Nika Fruit. Given all the parallels between the two characters, it just seems like a likely twist.

So, the Quake Fruit is a Paramecia. And assuming the Darkness Fruit is actually a Zoan, that means all Blackbeard needs to complete his "collection" is a Logia.

And there's a lot of different powerful choices Blackbeard could end up with.

If Blackbeard could get his hands on Enel's Lightning Fruit somehow, it's be ineffective on Luffy but pretty devastating to everyone else.

If Monkey D Dragon actually has some sort of "Storm Fruit" that'd be pretty interesting. Especially since that would mean Blackbeard would be responsible for killing Luffy's Dad. I'm..not sure if Luffy would really care or not, at this point, but he doesn't like people killing other people in general, so it'd still get him angry. Even if Dragon is basically a stranger to him.



Chapter 554

But, I think the most narratively interesting Fruit that Blackbeard could take is still Akainu's Magma Fruit.

Everyone's expecting Luffy to eventually get his revenge on Akainu for killing Ace. So, what if Blackbeard "steals" that revenge away from Luffy? What if Blackbeard gets to Akainu first and Luffy never gets closure for Ace's death?

Plus, Blackbeard seemed really interested in getting his hands on Ace's Flame Fruit. So, I definitely think Blackbeard would be interested in what is essentially the "upgraded" version of that Fruit.

Plus, I feel like it just fits with Blackbeard's aesthetic and design pretty well. And it works as another parallel to Luffy. Instead of the bright Sun bringing hope and light to the world, Blackbeard's the burning magma bringing devastation to everyone who opposes him. It just feels like it fits, to me.

Plus, if it turns out that Hibari is actually Akainu's daughter, that would keep up the tradition of Blackbeard killing someone that had a family who cared about them for their Devil Fruit. Like with Thatch and Whitebeard.



Chapter 1061

Blackbeard's Secret Devil Fruit Technique

TLDR?

I think Blackbeard is actually combining different factors to allow himself to use multiple Devil Fruits. It's not just one special ability, it's multiple factors working together.

Explain?

A lot of people think that the reason Blackbeard can use multiple Fruits is because he has a special body. That he might have been born to a special race, or maybe he was born with three hearts as a birth defect.

Others believe that Blackbeard can use multiple Fruits because of the Darkness Fruit. That it's a unique ability of the Darkness Fruit that somehow allows this.

You know what I say?



I think, in the end, Blackbeard's unique ability to have more than one Fruit will actually be a combination of a lot of different factors that just so happen to line up perfectly for Blackbeard.

One, his special body and lineage.

Two, his special Devil Fruit.

And Three, and this one I feel often gets overlooked, Blackbeard's knowledge.

Somehow, somehow, Blackbeard just knows a lot of stuff. Now, part of that probably is his probable psychic connection with the Gorosei at play. But a lot of this stuff he learned about before he got his Devil Fruit. Someone taught Blackbeard a lot of stuff about this world.

For example, Blackbeard knew about Lunarians. A race that all but disappeared long ago.



So, here's how I think this might work.

First, Blackbeard uses his Darkness Fruit to start the process. He touches a Devil Fruit User and nullifies their Fruit power. But, how? I think he might be able to not only generate physical voids, but emotional or mental voids as well. He literally makes the Fruit forget it's wish. A Devil Fruit is born from someone's wish, and its power reflects that. But, what if Blackbeard can kind of "brainwash" a Fruit into forgetting what it's wish is in the first place?



Chapter 441

Second, he uses a Buccaneer-like power in order to over-write the Fruit's original dream with his own. He may have a way to "project" his own soul into the Fruit and make it more like him. Basically, Blackworld would be "reprogramming" the Fruit. The reason why most people can't use more than one Devil Fruit at a time is likely because of the conflicting dreams within the Fruits. Both Devil Fruits want to see their "dreams" come true, so they end up conflicting with each other and destroying the User by literally pulling them in two different directions. But, if both Fruits had the same "dream", this would no longer be a problem. If both Fruits have the same "dream" then they would no longer interfere with each other, and the User could use both powers.

Third, he somehow absorbs the power from original Devil Fruit User. How this is done is unclear. But...we've never seen Blackbeard steal a power from someone who lived through the process. Chances are he eats a little bit of them. Probably specifically the heart. We've seen that this is an effective way to take someone's Devil Fruit power before, with Big Mom and Mother Caramel. The only problem with it is that it's a little too gruesome for a younger-skewing Shonen manga like One Piece. They could never show something like that on the page. So, I do wonder if there's something else Oda has planned for how Blackbeard absorbs other Devil Fruits.



Chapter 867

...I'll admit, it's possible this particular scenario is a little too convoluted for One Piece.

But, I do think Blackbeard's ability to have multiple Fruits will end up being a unique ability of his own, that was only possible because he combined a bunch of different abilities together that only he could have done.

I do believe that it will end up being more of a "technique" rather than just a straight-up "power" that Blackbeard has.

Blackbeard's Connection to Luffy

TLDR?

I think it's possible that both the Nika Fruit and Darkness Fruits were “inspired” by the same person.

Explain?

Blackbeard's relationship with Luffy has always struck me as a little strange, even from his first appearance.



Chapter 223

They're similar, but also opposite. They have similar dreams, but go about them in different ways. So, what's the connection?

A lot of people have been theorizing that Luffy has inherited the will of Joyboy, his dreams. While Blackbeard has inherited Joyboy's bloodline, but not his dreams, causing a sort of corruption of the original intent behind those dreams. And that's a good theory. I wouldn't be surprised if that turns out to be true.

But, part of me wonders if it doesn't go deeper than that.

Again, let's look at Giolla's artwork:



Chapter 722

On the Gateway is a Sun symbol. With one eye open and the other eye closed. One side “light” and the other side “dark”.

This feels like Oda's implying a sort of duality to the Sun. A good side and a bad side.

Which makes me wonder...is it possible that one person could inspire two different Fruits?

The Devil Fruits are apparently created from the dreams and wishes of the people. So, what happens if one group of people see a person one way and another group of people sees them another? What if to one group of people, Nika was a hero. But, to another group of people, he was seen as a villain?

It's kind of like with Luffy. His friends see him as a mostly lovable goofball. But, the people who just know him from his wanted posters know him as one of the most destructive pirates in the world, constantly upending entire governments and risking the lives of everyone around him.

I think a good real world example of this is how different people see someone like Elvis Presley.



To some people, Elvis will always be the King of Rock and Roll. A talented musician with hit after hit. A artist who they believe never died. He'll always be their King.



And then there's other groups of people who see Elvis as a fraud. Someone who stole some of his songs from other artists. A washed up has-been who died ingloriously in shame.

So, could the Nika and Darkness Fruits be the same way? Two different Fruits that came from the same source?

Either wished into existence by two different groups of people. Or perhaps inspired by two different points in the same person's life? One Fruit inspired when Nika was young and optimistic. And the other Fruit inspired when Nika grew older and more bitter and jaded?

Because, if Luffy and Blackbeard do have two Fruits connected in this way, I feel like that kind of explains a lot of the connections and differences.

And especially if the divergence point is being inspired by different points in time, that also kind of works for the “Sun” connection. Luffy is a young Sun full of life and brightness. And Blackbeard is a Sun after it’s “died” and turned into a black hole.

And if Nika grew more bitter and jaded as the years went on, that might inform the endgame of the manga. This entire saga might be about the difference between “inheriting a DREAM”...or “inheriting a GRUDGE”. This might be what the fight between Luffy and Blackbeard will actually be all about. Different kinds of inherited will fighting against each other.

Luffy inherited the will of a youthful dream. And Blackbeard inherited the will of a bitter old man angry at the world.

Which sets up another interesting contrast. Luffy seems to want to end this cycle of repeating history, and make everyone’s dreams come true. But, Blackbeard seems to want it to go on forever, even if it causes people to suffer. Is this due to a older version of Nika fearing death at the twilight of his years? Did a former hero end up fearing his death and seek a way to become immortal?

Which would definitely set up Blackbeard as a pretty decent candidate for the final villain of One Piece.

...But he’s not the only candidate we have.

Chapter 6-Imu



Flowers of Evil

Imu...IS REAL!

Who is Imu?

TLDR?

I think Imu could be a young girl who received the Immortality Surgery long ago, who created a utopia designed for children by children.

Explain?

Imu's going to be important. There's no doubt about that. But, we really don't know anything about them.

We don't even know if they're a boy, a girl, or something else entirely like a robot or something.

Personally, I'm leaning towards Imu being a girl. In One Piece, we ALWAYS have a sympathetic female character in every arc who needs Luffy's help. And, ultimately, I think Imu will turn out to be someone who needs our help more so than the grand master villain behind everything.

That being said, "Imu" did seem to be represented by Momo in Giolla's artwork. So, it's entirely possible Imu's a boy.



Chapter 722

And I DO mean "girl" and "boy", because I think one way or another, Imu will likely turn out to be a child. A immortal child who got the Immortality Surgery. But, still, a child.

I mean, look at Giolla's artwork again. That Crowned being looks like a child curled up in fear to me. I know I'm putting a lot of stock in this ONE panel, but I think it's going to turn out to be an important one.

But, even despite that, think about how the Celestial Dragons on the whole act.

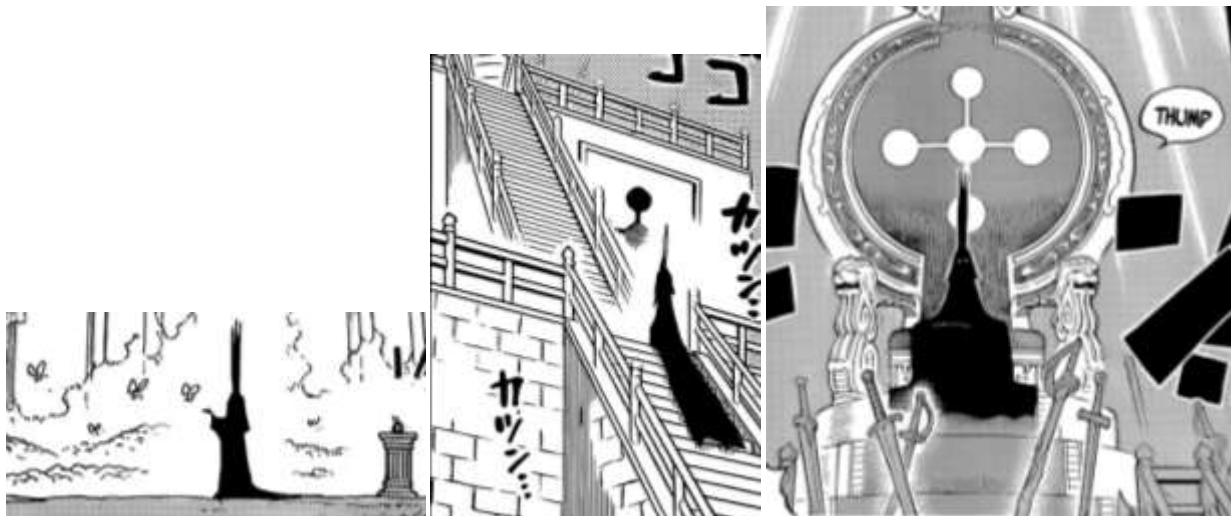


Chapter 499

As deranged as they can seem, the Celestial Dragons seem to act like spoiled children. They get horsey rides. They treat their slaves like toys that they discard once they're bored by them. They're constantly wearing astronaut "playsuits". They're basically people who never grew up.

I think Imu basically designed the Celestial Dragon's society around what children would like, because Imu is also a child.

I mean, when you really look at Imu's proportions, Imu's tiny.



Chapter 1084

Imu's crown is almost taller than she is. Her robes drag behind her like she hasn't grown into them yet. If we try to use the various swords around the Empty Throne for scale, she actually looks shorter than those swords. And she plops herself down in the throne like a child would in a booster seat. Everything we see about Imu says child to me.

Which means that the entire One Piece World is what happens when children are left in charge of the world.

Why does Imu want Vivi?

TLDR?

I think she just reminds her of her old friend Lili.

Explain?

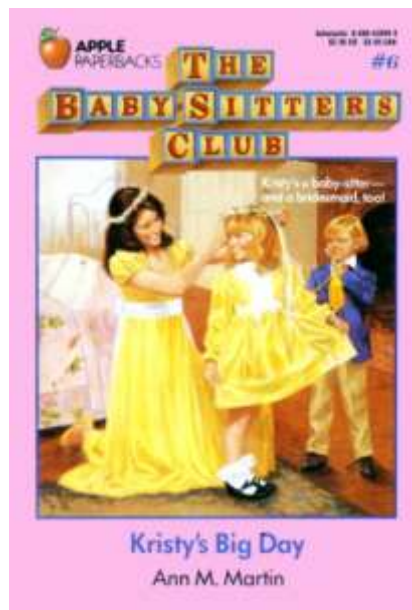
So, we know that Imu wants Vivi, but we don't know why, yet.



Chapter 1086

My best guess is that Vivi just reminds Imu of Lili so much.

And I'm guessing Lili was a old friend of Imu's. If she does turn out to be a immortal child...maybe Lili was even her baby-sitter or handmaiden, once upon a time.



Do you have ANY idea how FEW of these books' covers actually feature the girls taking care of children?

Well, I do NOW!

I think Imu is just nostalgic for the good old days with someone who was her friend. Someone who wasn't afraid of her.

What Is Imu?

TLDR?

I think Imu could be the last remaining “pure” human left on this planet.

Explain?

For this part, I’ll admit, I’m just writing what I think would be an interesting reveal.

Because, here’s the thing, Oda’s already drawn all sorts of crazy things. We’ve seen him draw giants and monsters and freaks and weirdos. We’ve seen him draw all sorts of people with every single crazy silhouette under the sun.

And he’s keeping Imu’s design a secret. How could Imu’s design POSSIBLY surprise a audience that’s basically seen everything over the last almost 30 years?

Well...what if Imu’s drawn in a completely different art style than what Oda normally does? What if instead of using his normal “squash and stretch” cartoony style for this character design, he instead draws something we’ve never really seen before from Oda?

What if he draws Imu as...a normal human girl?



A hyper-realistic, nearly photo-realistic human? With normal human proportions. Think kind of like the roto-scoped art style from the Flowers of Evil anime.

I think that would freak people out. And I’d love that.

And thinking about it, it also works pretty well thematically.

Because Luffy and Imu would eventually have some sort of confrontation, even if she isn’t the “main final boss” of this story.

And you know what that would be like in this scenario?



Judge Doom from "Who Framed Roger Rabbit"

Yeah, Luffy as a cartoon versus Imu as a hyperrealistic human. It feels like the perfect contrast.

In world, I've basically already given an explanation for it, if you've been paying attention. If exposure to the Devil Fruits and living on an alien world have been mutating humanity over the centuries and can create entirely different races like the Giants or Fish Men, then I think this can also explain why this entire world is so cartoony. Because, even for an anime, One Piece has always had a different kind of art style. A much more cartoony and old school art style than most anime and manga try to use.

And the entire world is this way because it's been terraformed by children. It's been changed into a child's ideal world by the terraforming Devil Fruits.

Imu might have been immortal long enough that she hasn't changed since they left the original Earth. She might have become immortal before they even reached this planet and started to terraform it.

Which means she's the only person left who still looks...human. She's all alone in a world full of cartoons.

And over the centuries, I think Imu has forgotten how to think like a child. When we hear her speak, she always seems to be so serious.

The eternal child has forgotten how to THINK like a child.

And Luffy can remind her how to do that during their fight.

Which means, she might be slipping in and out of her photorealistic art style, while Luffy makes her laugh and feel like a actual kid again. So we can do disturbing things like this:



I'll be honest, this messed me up as a kid.

Again, this changes the fight that the audience might be expecting.

This wouldn't just be a regular Shonen manga slugfest. It'd be a guy trying to get a overly serious overworked kid a chance to rediscover the wonder of the world around her. A girl who maybe grew up ironically too quickly trying to save the human race, gets another chance to be a kid again in spirit.

It becomes a fight of "imagination" versus "pragmatism". "Joy" versus "seriousness". "Comedy" versus "Violence".

And that metaphor would fit the ending to One Piece pretty well, I think.

Why call themselves “The Celestial Dragons”?

TLDR?

It's a way of showing their new dominion over the planet. And also, it gives them some plausible deniability if someone reads something about the “real” Dragons.

Explain?

You might be wondering why the Celestial Dragons would even dare to name themselves after a people that they persecuted and harmed? Wouldn't they want to hide that from history?

Well, it does kind of cement themselves as the new rulers of this planet. They are now the true rulers of this world. Not those OTHER dragons. It's kind of like calling yourself a king after you overthrow the old king. They're the ones who belong on this planet now.

Plus, when you think about it, it does kind of give them some plausible deniability, in a way.

The World Government's done a pretty decent job of erasing certain events from history. But, they never seem to get everything. There's always a book that survives getting burned. Or a church that somehow remains standing after hundreds of years.

So, if someone finds something that refers to the original Dragons, the Celestial Dragons can just claim it's actually talking about them. They can claim it's all a metaphor for themselves. And then seize the book and make that person mysteriously disappear.

It's actually kind of a clever way to handle it.

Imu is not the Mother Ocean

TLDR?

I don't think it would make sense for Imu to turn out to be the Mother Ocean that some have been expecting to be the final villain of this story.

Explain?

A lot of people have been theorizing that Imu could actually be "Mother Nature" or "Mother Ocean". The entity that cursed the Devil Fruits so that the people who eat them can no longer swim.



Chapter 1069

But, that doesn't really seem to make much sense, given what we know about Imu right now.

For one, Imu doesn't seem to have any sort of ties to the ocean, whatsoever. In fact, Imu seems to spend as much as her time away from the ocean as is possible in a world covered in water.

Mariejois

Miles of distance between Imu and the sea

The Ocean



Two, the Gorosei all have Devil Fruits. And not a single one of them is any sort of marine animal. Which means they're probably also weak to water. If Imu did have some form of control over water, I feel like she would have used that to her advantage and made the Gorosei immune to most Devil Fruits biggest weakness in this world. But, it doesn't seem like that's the case at the moment.

Three, if Imu was the Mother Ocean, couldn't she just wipe out a island like Lulusia with a tidal wave or something? Why would she need the Mother Flame?

And four...here's the thing about Oda. He loves coming up with new character designs. So, if given the option, I think Oda will always take the option that maximizes the number of characters that get introduced into the story. He wants a ton of characters to appear in this story.

So, I personally think that "Mother Ocean" will likely turn out to be a brand new character. If they show up at all. That gives Oda a chance to make a new character design.

As for why the sea effects Devil Fruit Users the way that it does, I have a few possibilities in mind.

One option, that goes along better with this particular megatheory, is that water is for some reason immune to the terraforming effects of the Devil Fruits. Water might be the one thing that the Devil Fruits just can't change into something else, for some reason.

Water is the universal solvent. Maybe that has something to do with it.

Maybe water short circuits the Devil Fruit's "energy fields" or "nanobots" or something?

Whatever the case, when a Devil Fruit user touches the water, it might change how the User's body interacts with the gravity of this world. If this is indeed a alien world, chances are it has a slightly different gravity than the original Earth. This world's gravity might have gotten "terraformed" along with the rest of the planet to be more like Earth's. But, in the water, the gravity becomes the same as it was in the distant past. Meaning the Devil Fruit User is suddenly trying to swim on a planet with the gravity equivalent to Jupiter or something.

Or option two, it's possible that the Mother Ocean isn't the villain we've been expecting her to be, after all.

There's been a lot of subversions of our expectations in One Piece so far. "Gods" like Enel turn out to be bad guys. Pirates are the good guys. Oda likes a good twist. So, I wouldn't be surprised if Mother Ocean also gets a twist to the story that we've been told for so long.

Basically, what if the Devil Fruit Curse, isn't a "curse" at all? What if the Mother Ocean is trying to draw the Devil Fruit users to her at the bottom of the ocean for their own safety? In order to keep them all away from Imu?

Sort of like the legend of Urashima Taro, they're taken to a kingdom under the sea? A safe haven away from Imu. Keeping both the User and the Fruit itself out of Imu's control. It would also work as a sort of reference to the Japanese goddess Izanami, who helped create the world and became the ruler of the underworld. Maybe the Mother Ocean of our story is currently stuck in the Underworld with the frozen Dragons?

Imu's Devil Fruit

TLDR?

It's probably a Dragon. Specifically, I'll say it's a Ryuto. The circle is complete.

Explain?

I'll admit, Imu having a Devil Fruit form like the other Gorosei does make my "hyper realistic girl" theory less likely. It'd be a little strange to draw a photo realistic version of a mythical animal. But, it's not technically impossible.

As for what animal she is, let's take another look at Imu's silhouette.



Chapter 1085

Imu's creature seems to have a powerful large jaw. A dart like tail. And fingers or claws, which seem quadrupedal.

...Yeah, if you've read this entire theory up to this point, you already know I'm going to say it's a dragon. It's very dragon-like, even without me writing this entire dissertation and putting the idea into your head.

And given how much the World Government has already taken from the Dragon Civilization, it's just be the cherry on top of everything for Imu to also be able to steal their form and power for herself. The irony is just too delicious.

But, let's look at some alternatives just for funsies.

Personally, the shape of that head kind of reminds me of the Helmasaur King from the Legend of Zelda A Link to the Past. It's even got a similar tail. But, there's no way it's supposed to be that.



A Manticore is possible. That also has a scorpion tail and a large jaw. It'd fit the silhouette, but it doesn't really feel like it fits the theme of the other Gorosei.



And I've seen some people make the case for a cartoony Devil like the one from Cuphead.



Now, there is a variant on the dragon that I find to be an interesting possibility. The Ryuto.



It's still a type of dragon, but this one is made out of light. And I just like the irony of a God of the Sun like Nika having to fight a dragon made out of light.

It even seems to be associated with the moon, since it only comes out at night. Again, the symmetry just works for me. A Dragon made of Moonlight fighting the God of the Sun. It works!

And besides, Blackbeard already has the market cornered on darkness themed powers. Let's have Luffy fight someone light-themed to get some variety into these final battles.

Although, the problem with this yokai is that it's not actually a destructive creature. It doesn't burn anything or compel anyone to drown themselves.

It's just pretty.

Good job making it this far. You've earned yourself another treat.

Have some brownies!



Yum Yum Yum Yum

...Okay, that's it!

I think I've said everything I can about this Megatheory. I mean, what else could we possibly have to...

OH NO, I FORGOT ABOUT THE ACTUAL TREASURE!

...or DID I?!

...eh, kind of half and half, to be honest.

But, seriously, it's almost done. Just try to stick with it a little bit longer. I know this is getting ridiculous.

But I believe in you! You can make it!

Chapter 7-The One Piece



The Kool-Aid Man

OH YEEEEAAHHHH!

The Treasure Part 1-The Storyteller

TLDR?

I think someone is going to have to tell us the story of the Void Century. And that someone will be Binks, the Sake-Fruit User.

Explain?

I'm going to admit this right now...I'm stealing a good chunk of this theory from Artur...of the Library of Ohara fame.

Seriously, go watch his "What is the One Piece? The ULTIMATE One Piece Theory" video on Youtube.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX3d8x1WCBA>

This one, right here. Go on, I'll wait.

I'll even leave the rest of this page blank as to not spoil it for you.

...Okay, you done?

Alright, to sum up...IT'S BOOZE! This entire manga has been one giant beer run!

Okay, but seriously, I do agree with Artur in this video. The treasure being Bink's Sake just makes too much sense. Oda loves that song he wrote. It means a lot to both the people in-world and those in the real world, since it's been around for so long. It just makes sense.

...But, you know me, by now. I can't just leave well enough alone. I have to try to put my own spin on this.

So, what if it's not just a regular bottle of sake?

What if it's a bottle of Sake...that walks like a man?!



What, you think I was kidding about The Kool-Aid Man?

You should know better. We don't joke about the Kool-Aid man in this house.

What if one of Joyboy's crew ate the Sake-Sake no Mi Fruit and became a Alcohol-man? What if the treasure isn't just Bink's Sake...but Binks himself? What if the reason why Gol D. Roger was "too early" was because that Sake-Sake no Mi user still had to "age" like a fine wine in a barrel for a certain amount of time in order to gain more powers?

I imagine it's kind of like those old "Living Buddha"s in Japan, where a living monk will bury himself underground to become a mummy to prove their devotion. This practice is called "SokuShinbutsu" or "Instantly Advanced to Buddhahood"...and it'd be just a PERFECT pun to change that into "Sake-Shinbutsu" or "Advanced to Buddhahood by booze". (I have no idea if that pun actually works in Japanese).

So, yeah, I'm really guessing that the One Piece is basically a Boozy Kool-Aid Man. Oda loves adding characters to this story. The treasure at the end actually BEING yet another new character just kind of feels right to me.

That would ALSO allow someone to TELL the Strawhats about the history of the world, instead of Robin having to read it to them off a wall or something. It'd just be more interesting to hear the story from someone who really was there.

If you want to think of it a different way, maybe think of a bottle of sake turning into a yokai. There's an entire class of yokai that are objects that turn into mythical creatures after they reach a certain age, usually at least 100 years. They're called Tsukumogami. The more an object ages the more powerful it becomes. This would basically be like that.

But, that's not all. After all, sake alone isn't really "everything in the world" like Roger claimed the One Piece is. So...what if the sake also has a special power?

You know how some people see Pink Elephants when they're drunk? Well, what if there was an alcohol that was so strong...the Pink Elephants stuck around after you sobered up?



The Pink Elephants from Winnie the Pooh

So, if your desire is strong enough that you can see a hallucination of something when you're drunk...the Sake-Sake no Mi allows that alcohol-induced hallucination to become reality.

That way it could ALSO create Chopper's panacea. Or a awesome sword for Zoro. Or a statue for Luffy. Anything they want can be drunk into reality, if they want it enough.

And there's one other crazier use for the sake that I can think of.

At some point in the story the Strawhats might have to go into outer space. Either to fight some villain, or to face Enel, or something. So...how could they do that?

Well...alcohol is flammable, isn't it?

So...couldn't you also use sake...as rocket fuel?!



That's right! I'm predicting the Strawhats will end up using booze to bring themselves to space! The Sunny is getting Sake-fueled Booster rockets!

But, wait, there's more!

I think a lot of us are also expecting a big party at the end of this story. Luffy wants to celebrate his big victory with all of his friends at the end of this story.

But, I think if we do get a big party by the end of this story it's not going to JUST be about celebrating Luffy become the King of the Pirates, although that will be a part of it.

I think it will also serve as a sort of "Welcome Home" or "Apology" party for the Dragons who were wronged, too.

Luffy will free the Dragons trapped in the icy center of the planet. And he'll probably defeat some giant Nightmare Fruit Entity that was born from all their pain and misery, too. But, after all that...big party time!

I think Luffy and all his friends are going to try to make it up to the wronged Dragons with a big party together with everyone. He's going to try to rid them of their hatred with pure joy, laughter, and fun.

And, I mean, Dragons DO famously love their barrels full of sake.



The Legend of Susanoo getting Orochi drunk and then defeating him.

But, that's still not all, because while I do think this is the "treasure" that they'll end up finding at the end of their journey to Laugh Tale, I think there's going to be one more adventure they have to go on. One more person they have to make sure they invite to this party.

I think there's one more...piece...to this treasure.

The Treasure Part 2-Picking up the Pieces

TLDR?

I think Joyboy might still be alive, but the pieces of his body just got cut up and spread all over the world.

Explain?

So...how many of you have read Jojo's Bizarre Adventure Part 7 Steel Ball Run? Because this is going to come across as a LOT weirder if you haven't.



Okay, so let's review a few things.

Imu seems to have Joyboy's hat in her fridge.



Chapter 906

That's weird, right? Hats don't belong in there. They'll get all soggy.

But, it gets more interesting when you remember that Oars was also frozen and chained up.



Chapter 456

So...if Imu kept the hat on ice...could that mean that MORE of Joyboy's body is actually in there? Could she have Joyboy's body frozen just like Oar's body was frozen?

I think there's one more piece (ha) to this puzzle we should keep in mind. Doflamingo wanting Law's Ope Ope no Mi.



Chapter 761

Doflamingo claims you need Law's Operation Fruit in order to use the National Treasure of Mariejois. Now, why would that be?

Well, what if when Joyboy's crew betrayed him, they didn't just kill him? What if they wanted to make sure he STAYED dead?

So, maybe they used various Fruit powers on him? Maybe like the Chop Chop Fruit to cut him up? Or the Operation Fruit to take his soul out of his body?

And then, they kept these parts of his body somewhere they knew they could keep a eye on them.

What if Mariejois is literally built on top on Joyboy's "grave"? What if their kingdom is literally built on the bones of their dead old friend?



What if Joyboy's body IS the National Treasure of Mariejois?!

But, what if the Gorosei and Imu don't have ALL the pieces of Joyboy's body anymore?

We still haven't talked about the "crimes" of Zunesia or the Ancient Giant Robot.



What if the crimes they were "cursed" for are basically grave robbery? That's right, that Elephant is a grave robber.

What if they stole a piece of Joyboy's body and hid it from the Gorosei, in the hopes that someone would take up the quest to put all the pieces back together.

There's literally One Piece of Joyboy at Laugh Tale. Now, the Strawhats have to find and reassemble all the other pieces.

Most of which are probably underneath Mariejois under that hat. The pieces actually might be the "bricks" of that room itself, if they sliced him into little cubes.

But, which piece is most likely at Laugh Tale?

I'm going to guess it's Joyboy's head.

And it's probably making some funny face like a Hyottoko Mask.



Because this is One Piece, that's why.

But, this would mean that Luffy and Joyboy could potentially get to meet. If all the pieces get reassembled with the Operation Fruit.

I don't know if there are other pieces spread throughout the world or not. But, I could see the last few chapters having a special cover story series where the Strawhats go back to past islands to meet up with old friends. They could find a few pieces of Joyboy that way. That way they invite everyone to their big party AND get to go on another big around the world journey again, all at the same time.

And, yes, some people are going to point out that the National Treasure of Mariejois was likely actually referring to Imu herself. Doflamingo probably wanted to use the Operation Fruit to put his mind into Imu's body to rule over the world.

But...I like this better. *shrug* And we really don't know for sure what Doflamingo was talking about exactly. There's still wiggle room.

Which leaves just a few straggling thoughts left for this Megatheory. Just for some random characters and ideas.

Chapter 8-And the rest...



We're almost done, I promise.

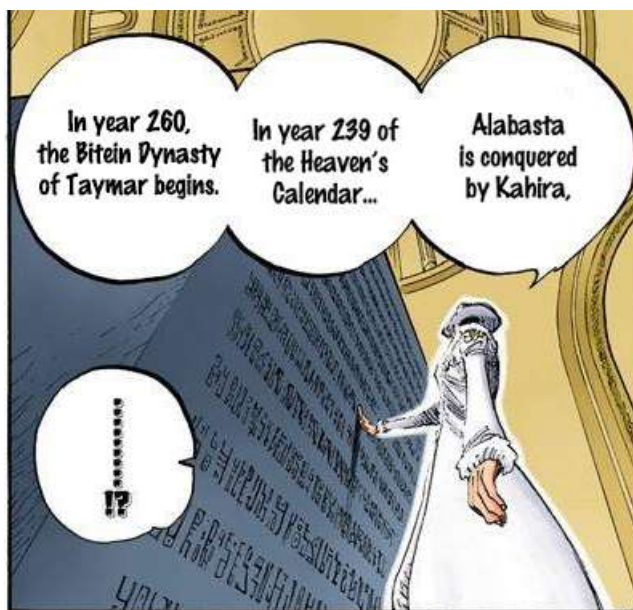
The Age of Heaven

TLDR?

Something big happened 1524 years ago that caused the entire world to change its dating system. And I think that's probably around the time that the Dragons were originally sealed into the frozen core of the planet, and humanity officially took over as the dominate species.

Explain?

The Void Century of 800 years in the past is the era that gets mentioned the most in One Piece...but there IS another era that's just as, if not more, interesting. The change from the Age of Heaven to the Age of the Sea Circle calendars.



Chapter 203

This world HAS a real dating system, and we're currently on year 1524.

Something happened 1524 years ago that changed the entire world's dating system, and it had to be something BIG.

Possibly the end of the "Age of Gods" like Nika. Or the end of the peace between Dragons and Humanity.

And 1524 years ago is AWFULLY close to twice the length of 800 years ago. So, this cycle of upheaval seems to be repeating for some reason almost every 800 years, give or take a few decades.

Something is happening and it seems to be on a schedule.. And the change SEEMS to predate the existence of the World Government, so someone or something else helped organize and enforce the change to a different calendar system.

Going along with this Megatheory, I think this is likely when the Dragons were driven into the Underworld. Thusly, allowing Humanity to impose its own calendar system onto the world. Humans officially took over as the most powerful species on the surface of the world and began the long process of making this world their own. Exploring and conquering these wild new lands.

Or..."Circling the Sea". Exploring this new world of theirs. In the new Age of the Sea Circle.

There are three Dawns!

TLDR?

I think it's possible that all of Oda's Wanted manga is canon. Which means, I think the two prototype versions of Romance Dawn are also canon, and possibly represent two of Luffy's past lives. Luffy might be the reason history seems to repeat itself in this story.

Explain?

Before the Monsters 103 Mercies anime adaptation came out, I took the chance to re-read Oda's Wanted manga. It's a collection of one-shots he made before he started making One Piece. Along with two different versions of prototypes for One Piece, both called Romance Dawn.



And after re-reading all of it again, a thought struck me.

Is it possible that this entire manga is actually...canon to One Piece?

I mean, Monsters/Ryuma is apparently canon. So, is it possible that ALL the stories in Wanted are actually canon to One Piece?

It doesn't feel IMPOSSIBLE for most of them to be counted as canon. Most of the stories don't have many inconsistencies with the world of One Piece, given how varied the setting already is.

Wanted is based in an old west village, so it doesn't really contradict anything.

Ikki Yako fits pretty nicely in Wano. It's VERY Japanese.

And even though it's set in the "modern day", "God's Gift For the Future" COULD take place in the Ancient Kingdom, since it was supposed to be a highly advanced civilization. That advanced civilization might just look a lot like "modern" Japan.

But, then you have both versions of Romance Dawn.

Romance Dawn v1 and v2 both star Luffy.



V1 Where Luffy grows into a man



V2 Where Luffy punches a witch and meets a roc

And we KNOW Luffy isn't an immortal.

But, "inherited will" is a big theme of One Piece. And so is history repeating itself. So how could they possibly fit into the story? How can there be two Luffys in the past?

Well...what if they're actually Nika and Joyboy?

We're still not 100% sure if Nika and Joyboy are the same person. Joyboy likely had the Nika Fruit, but we still don't know who actually "inspired" the creation of the Fruit itself.

And it's interesting that neither Nika or Joyboy really have "names".

Nika is the grinning sound effect, so that could just be a nickname.

And Joyboy is a title or nickname. We still likely don't know either of their real names.

So, Is it possible that Oda's keeping their real names a secret because BOTH of their real names are actually "Luffy"? I have to wonder, is it possible that the other two "prototype" versions of Romance Dawn are actually canon? Could Romance Dawn v1 and 2 actually BE Luffy's past lives? And also, the start of Nika and Joyboy's journeys?

Basically, there's TWO prototype versions of Romance Dawn that released before the main series of One Piece. And TWO names of people who were important to the past of this entire world.

Coincidence?!

...I mean, maybe? But, it's still weird.

Plus, if Luffy has been reincarnating multiple times in the past, it might explain why the Ancient Giant Robot awakened 200 years ago and attacked Mariejois.



Chapter 1067

Maybe there was another version of Luffy running around 200 years ago in a past life? Maybe even one of the Romance Dawn versions.

Maybe the entire reason that history seems to be repeating itself in this manga is because Luffy keeps reincarnating and doing the same things over and over again?

Causing the same kinds of upheavals, righting the same kinds of wrongs, and travelling the same journey...that he never gets to finish.

And we have a pretty good reason to suspect that history IS repeating itself, because Kuma's Nika Bible seems to imply that Nika went on the same journey that Luffy is currently on.



Chapter 1098

Maybe the terraforming abilities of the Devil Fruits have some part to play in this cycle of reincarnation? Just as the Devil Fruits are reborn in different fruits after the user dies, maybe this process also makes sure that certain people are reborn into this world over and over again as well?

What is Shanks' Dream?

TLDR?

I think Shanks is trying to fight against destiny itself. I think he's trying to stop history from repeating itself, again. Even if that means fighting Luffy.

Explain?

There's one thing we know for sure about Shanks. Shanks has Conqueror's Haki. Crazy strong Conqueror's Haki at that. Which I believe means that Shanks has his own dream that he wants to see come true.

Everyone we've seen who has Conqueror's Haki has had a dream of their own that they wanted to fulfill. Conqueror's Haki seems intimately tied to the willpower to see your dream come true. Something difficult that they want to overcome. Something they need the power for, in order to Conquer. I don't think we've seen someone with Conqueror's Haki who's only goal was to see someone else achieve a dream.



Chapter 5

Even Zoro, as supportive as he is of Luffy's dream, has a dream all his own. He wants to be the greatest swordsman in the world. And, I've even seen some theories where they think Zoro wants to literally conquer Death itself, in order to avenge Kuina's random death. And Zoro swordfighting with Death by the endgame would be pretty metal. And it would explain Death kind of randomly showing up during Wano.

So, if Shanks does have his eyes on Luffy, that probably means he plans on using Luffy to fulfill his OWN dream, whatever that may be. Helping or controlling Luffy is probably a key to his own ends. One way or another.

I think it's a bit telling that Shanks says he wants to "Claim the One Piece" and NOT "Become the Pirate King". It's a slight difference, but a important one.

Shanks is willing to work with the Gorosei. And we've seen him purposefully protect those weaker than him on Elbaf.



So, I think he's trying to protect the stability of this world. Chaos and tumult would only cause problems for those too weak to defend themselves. So, he probably plans on "controlling" Luffy, to keep him from disturbing the peace of this world. Not really a enemy, but not really on his side, either. Shanks probably wants to keep Luffy from achieving his dream, since finding Laugh Tale would cause problems for everyone in the world. But, Shanks will still protect Luffy. Shanks is a man who wants to protect EVERYONE. And sometimes that means stopping them from doing what they want.

So, I think Shank's "dream" is probably STOPPING destiny itself. He probably knows about the Joyboy prophecy, and he's trying to stop it from coming true. He's trying to conquer destiny and cyclical history itself. Trying to break the cycle the only way he knows how, by stopping Joyboy from getting to Laugh Tale. Joyboy getting to Laugh Tale probably restarts this whole cycle all over again, somehow. And Shanks is trying to stop history from repeating itself again. And that cycle probably begins again with some sort of disaster affecting the whole world.

Which kind of explains the rivalry with Blackbeard. Blackbeard seems to be a person who revels in the repeating nature of this world's history. Blackbeard WANTS the cycle to continue forever. "A Man's dream can NEVER END!", after all. So, Shanks and Blackbeard are diametrically opposed. Their dreams directly conflict with each other. One wants to end the cycle, and the other wants to continue the cycle of history.

So, if Shanks did try to become Joyboy, it all would have been pretty simple. He'd just do nothing, and everyone would be spared. It would have been easy. Boring, but easy. But, fate worked against him on this. Fate has always been Shank's greatest enemy.

I think Shanks will end up offering Luffy a chance to join his crew. That way, Shanks is in charge, and Luffy gets a chance to sail with Shanks, which is probably a childhood dream of his. That won't happen, because Luffy has his own dreams. But, I think Shanks will make the offer. And it MIGHT turn into a Davy Back Fight, as a way to stop Luffy from achieving his dream and disturbing the balance of the world.

Who is the Man Marked by Flames?

TLDR?

I think it could be the klabautermann of the Oro Jackson, Gol D Roger's ship.

Explain?

We literally know NOTHING about the Man Marked by Flames other than he wanders the ocean with a Road Poneglyph in tow.



Chapter 1081

I know some people think that Monkey D Dragon could be him. But...that would require Dragon to actually do something, and we can't be having that. Plus, whenever we see him, he's usually at the Revolutionary Base. Not roaming the sea. And a face-tattoo isn't really "marked by flames", per se, anyway. I feel pretty confident saying Monkey D Dragon is NOT the Man Marked by Flames.

So, who is it?

Well, there's one concept in this story that was pretty important at one point, but really hasn't been brought up for...decades, at this point.

The klabautermann.



Chapter 351

The spirits of the ships that are loved and well cared for.

And interestingly enough, we have another famous ship who is mysteriously missing in action.

The Oro Jackson. Gol D Roger's ship. Arguably, the best known non-Strawhat ship in the franchise.



Chapter 353

Now, the Oro Jackson isn't a black ship like the one described. But, if it had been damaged in battle over the years, I could see it getting burn marks from getting hit by cannonballs and other weapons, which it has no way of repairing. And if the ship itself is damaged, that might affect the klabautermann the same way. A damaged ship might lead to the klabautermann looking like it has scars, too. And a klabautermann does look like a person from far away.

And as famous as the Oro Jackson is, as many times as it's been mentioned and seen in this story, we've never seen what actually happened to it after Roger was captured and executed. It just disappears from the story complete. No one ever mentions it being scrapped or sunk.

But, I think it's fair to say that the Oro Jackson almost certainly had a klabautermann inhabiting it. Gol D Roger and his crew were by all accounts stand up guys. They probably took care of their ship. And we know Tom put a lot of love into building it in the first place.

And the Oro Jackson would know where the Poneglyph was, since it did journey with Roger to find it the first time around.

I think the Oro Jackson tried to keep the Poneglyph safe in memory of its dead friend. I think it's wandering the sea, looking for someone worthy to give the Poneglyph to. Or to keep it out of unworthy hands.

It might have also teamed up with whatever hatched out of that Giant Mystery Egg everyone in the fandom is so curious about. Some of the stuff the Man Marked by Flames is getting credit for might be the work of a ship and a "bird" working together with each other.

And Oda HAS to payoff the klabautermann plot SOMEHOW. Otherwise it's just a...strange but touching tangent. It being the Oro Jackson just gives us an opportunity to answer a lot of questions in a single swoop.

The Island Clouds

TLDR?

I think the fact that pyrobloin come from volcanos is a hint that there's something at the center of the planet. I think the ice from the center of the planet turning to steam as it travels through the thin magma shell of the planet might explain how Island Clouds and Sea Stone both exist.

Explain?

Okay, we're going to have to talk about pyrobloin for a minute here.



Chapter 240

Pyrobloin comes from volcanoes. It's also a key component of Sea Stone. Meaning that something INSIDE of the planet is producing this substance.

So, I think it's possible that Pyrobloin is actually the ice that's imprisoning the Oni and Dragons. The Prison Ice that is closest to the shell of crust that surrounds the hollow One Piece Planet is slowly melting bit by bit because of exposure to the magma within the shell. We saw Big Mom and Kaido fall into the magma, so we know there's magma under the upper layer of the planet.

This Prison Ice vapor then rises to the surface of the planet via underground faults and tunnels within the planet. Where it combines with "normal" water to produce Island Clouds. The tunnels and faults where the Prison Ice vapor escapes from the core may be the source of where Sea Stone comes from.

It may also aid in the terraforming process. Animals and plants seem to grow larger around Island Clouds. So, maybe the pyrobloin also aids in growth to make a new world habitable faster. Or it's due to giant's "sweat" in the Prison Ice.

Think of it kind of like a pocket of underground natural gas that infects the surrounding water supply and kills the plant life in the area.

It's SCIENCE, I tell you! Underworldy ice and floating clouds are SCIENCE!

Let's Play "Who IS Rocks?"!

TLDR?

Rocks is probably just Rocks. BUT...if he's anyone in the cast we've seen before, I'd bet on Big News Morgans.

Explain?

It's time for everyone's favorite gameshow "Who...IS...ROCKS?"! Where the facts are made up and the grades don't matter.

Okay, for semi-serious, it's a little strange that Oda keeps hiding Rocks D Xebec's face from us at this point, right?



Chapter 957

I mean, it makes sense for someone like Imu. That's a big important character to the plot.

But, Rocks? I mean, we barely know the guy. He got introduced 957 chapters into this story, fairly late. Honestly, when he was first introduced, I thought Oda was seeding him as the next villain for a non-canon movie, like Shiki for Strong World.

I mean, he had one of the most powerful crews in history...but he's all backstory and no substance, at this point. It's just so much bluster. He fought a bunch of powerful people, sure. But, as far as we know, he didn't really seem to actually accomplish much.

I mean, I kind of liked the theory that he's the previous generation's Buggy. Someone who kept failing upward against his will. Maybe someone who somehow kept winning Davy Back Fights until he had a monster crew he couldn't control. (Look up Parvision's video "You're wrong about God Valley! Rocks D. Xebec is a Fraud?" if you want more about that.)

Now, recent chapters kind of work against that, with him charging into battle the way he seems to do. So, unless he's just trying to run away from his crew, he's probably not a parallel for Buggy.

I guess he might be Oda's One Eyepatch Pirate. I believe that Oda has said he will only allow ONE character to ever have a eye patch in this story, because he doesn't like the cliché of pirates all having eye patches. So, maybe Rocks will be that man!

But, there's also a possibility that he's someone we've already met before in this story. Someone might secretly be Rocks in disguise.

...I find it a little unlikely, though. Like I've said before, Oda likes designing characters. And if there's a choice between having one character serve two functions in this story, or having TWO characters being completely separate designs...I think Oda would pick having two characters 90% of the time. Oda likes having a LOT of toys on the shelf.

...But, I just can't get the idea out of my head. Sure, the Marines think Rocks is dead. But, they also think Chopper is a pet and Franky is their ship. The Marines have one of the worst Intel Divisions in the world...and they're the ONLY Intel Division in the world! Can't blame them since their executives hide so much from them, but still. If the Marines think Rocks is dead, that just makes me think he's almost certainly alive somewhere.

And Oda not showing his face just leaves me feeling like we'd recognize him, somehow.


So, let's just go over some possibilities just so I can work this out of my system.


So, what do we know about Rocks?


Well...he's got spiky hair. We've seen that from his silhouette. So, as long as Oda doesn't change his mind, we can probably count on that.


And he was active as a pirate 44 years ago. Which would probably make him around 60 years old by now, assuming he took control of his crew when he was fairly young at around 20 years old. People start piracy pretty young in this world, though. Luffy was only 17 years old when the manga started, so he might be a bit younger than expected. So mid 50s early 60s or older makes sense.


So, let's finally go over some potential candidates.


Caribou	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Has long spiky hair, even if he is going for the wet look now. +Has a powerful Devil Fruit. +Has the uncanny ability to vanish and hide. +He's been in the story long enough that it would be a interesting twist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Supposedly only 32 years old. -Not a very powerful fighter. -Seems to enjoy working for others. 	D for Disgusting!


Buggy's Dad	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Might Have failed upward, just like his son. +He'd probably be around the right age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Does not actually exist. -Rocks does not share the family nose. 	F for Failed Father!

Laffitte	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +We know little about him. +Has a mysterious Devil Fruit. +Has been in the story for a long time and hasn't done much. +He does have long hair, even if he is hiding it under his tophat. +Good at sneaking around, so it makes sense he could hide his identity. +He seems to like to manipulate people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Supposedly only 41. -He seems to prefer someone else in the captain's seat. -Wouldn't Sengoku have recognized him when he crashed the Warlords meeting? 	C for Mimes are Creepy!

Imu	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +It'd definitely be a surprise. +They both rock the silhouette life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Frowns on piracy. -Seems too short. -Seems too shy to ever run a pirate crew. 	F for Fabled Face!

Sengoku	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +It'd definitely be a surprise. +He's around the right age. +He's one of the only people who's talked about Rocks. So, if he needed to lie, he could easily. +Has a powerful Devil Fruit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -We know for a fact that he joined the Marines along with Garp. So unless he's been living a double life, he's out. -Has a Afro instead of spiky hair. -Too sane. 	F for 'Fro-ed Faithful Figurine!

Monkey D Dragon	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Has spiky hair. +He's around the right age. +May have a strong Devil Fruit. +Hates the World Government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Not crazy enough. -Why change your name, if you're going to keep the D initial? -Seems unlikely that he ever did anything in the past. 	D for Do Something Already!

Big News Morgans	Pros	Cons	Grade
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +It'd certainly be BIG NEWS. +He's around the right age. +He's crazy. He'll walk right into a warzone for a scoop. + "Morgans" implies he's evil, since bad Pirates in Romance Dawn were called Morganeers. +Has a love for manipulating people. +Is driven. He's still the "captain" of his industry. +Has been hiding his true face the entire time we've known him. +Still involved with crime with connections in the criminal underworld. +In a way, he is the "king of the world", since he controls what the public sees and learns about. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -His Devil Fruit doesn't seem that powerful. -It's questionable if the World Government would put him in "witness protection". -Dresses nicer than Rocks usually did. 	<p>B for Bird, because Bird is the Word!</p>

So, there we go. Our "winner" ladies and gentlemen! Big News Morgans may just be Rocks D Xebec!

Yeah, the fact that Big News Morgans hides his identity is pretty suspicious. So, I feel like that requires Morgans to be someone recognizable. And Rocks is one of the only recognizable people who we haven't already seen yet. These two hidden figures complete each other.

And, while it's unlikely, I could see him maybe making a deal with the World Government. If they give him a important job, he'll stop attacking them. Maybe Rocks just wanted to be important. Maybe he just wanted to rub shoulders with the "beautiful people" of this world. Maybe Rocks just wanted to be...a rock star.

So, Rocks promised to hide his identity in exchange for a high ranking position in the World Government. He changed his name and never stops being in his Devil Fruit form so that no one will ever know it's him. As far as the rest of the world knows, Rocks is dead. But, he still gets to be world famous. Rocks basically went into the equivalent of "witness protection". That doesn't seem impossible to me.

...I probably wouldn't put money on it. And nobody got a "A" for a reason. None of these feel like perfect options.

But, if it actually happens, I'm still taking credit for calling it!

The Final Panel of One Piece

TLDR?

I think Luffy will end up giving his straw hat to another child. Probably Makino's baby back in Foosha Village.

Explain?

Oda's said before that he's had the last panel of this story planned out since the manga started.

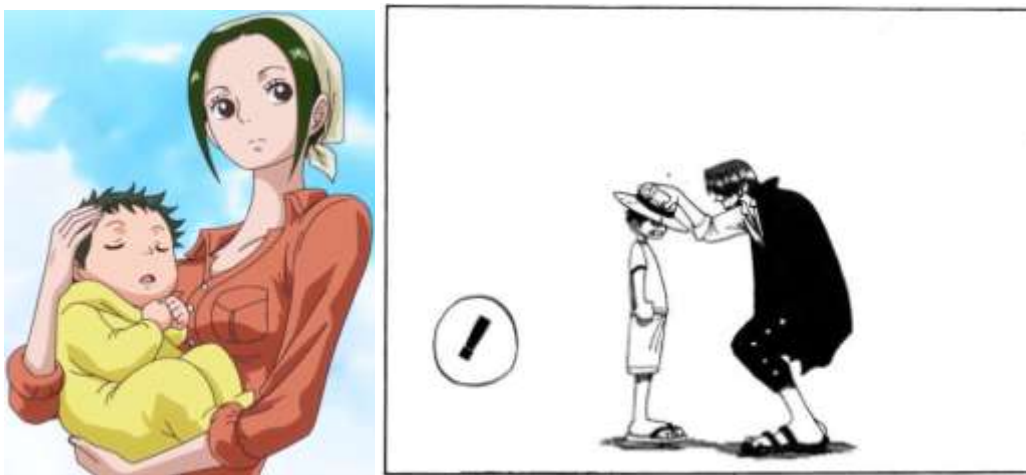
So, what is it?

Well, I can't help but think the perfect ending to this story is basically having it all circle back to the beginning. Just like Shanks giving his straw hat to a young Luffy started our journey, I think it makes all the sense in the world for Luffy to give his straw hat to someone else, so they too are inspired to start their own journey.

I know I've said before in this theory that Luffy's probably going to end cycle of repeated history in this world. But, I think some things will continue to repeat. People will still be inspired to go out on adventures into the world, after all.

Sometimes history repeating itself is a curse. But, sometimes it's tradition.

And I can't think of a better candidate to inherit the straw hat than Makino's baby back in Foosha Village. Probably after a bit of a timeskip.



We still don't know that baby's name. But, we've basically been watching him grow up in the background almost since the beginning of the story.

It makes all the sense in the world to me that he'll eventually grow up to idolize Luffy just like Luffy idolized Shanks.

Some stories are worth repeating, after all.

The Fate of Punk Records

TLDR?

I think Punk Records will end up getting shot into space! Vegapunk's brain will literally become a satellite orbiting the planet!

Explain?

We started with Vegapunk, so let's more or less end with Vegapunk.

Vegapunk's in a bit of a pickle at the moment. The Gorosei are attacking his island. One of his other selves has betrayed him. And he might actually be dead after getting stabbed and poisoned.



Chapter 1106

Mondays, amirite?

Not a great day for Vegapunk. Probably bottom 5, for sure. Right down there with failing to recreate the Dragon Fruit perfectly, having to make Kuma brain dead, failing to warm up his home island, and that time he forgot to save the scientific report he had been working on for 10 hours only for the power to go out for a second unexpectedly and he lost everything.

But, it's hard to say how dead Vegapunk actually is, at the moment. All his satellite bodies are still operational. If he was really dead, I feel like York and the other Satellites wouldn't function anymore, since they're a result of his Brain Fruit powers, as I understand it.

So, their survival probably means that the majority of Vegapunk's brain that's housed within Punk Records probably counts as his "true" self, to the Devil Fruit. Vegapunk's mind is probably still aware and active inside of Punk Records. And I guess that makes sense, since judging by the size of Punk Records, Vegapunk's brain is about a thousand times bigger than Vegapunk's body at this point. The brain just has the greater mass, at this point.

But, the problem is the Gorosei definitely want to destroy Vegapunk's brain. But, Vegapunk definitely doesn't want to die, and probably wants to preserve his research, which is all stored in his mind. So, how does he accomplish that?

Well, I think it's pretty simple. He shoots his brain into SPACE!



If his brain is in space, the World Government probably doesn't have a way to reach it. At least not easily. And he probably has a way to transmit his brain's data remotely from Punk Records back down to the planet below. Like a literal satellite sending a signal back down to the planet.

And a lot of Punk Records is obscured by clouds. Those clouds might be hiding space-thrusters or a launch platform of some kind.

So, yeah, I think that feels like something Vegapunk would think up as a backup plan.

Vegapunk's message being on a timer isn't just for everyone to be able to get their Transponder Snails ready. It's also a countdown to blast off!

Plus, you know who else is in space, right now? That's right, Enel! And wouldn't it just be INTERESTING if Enel suddenly found all the information about the world just sitting in his metaphorical backyard? It'd be a way to bring Enel back into the main plot after decades away.

And as a sidenote, even if Punk Records gets blown up and 99% of Vegapunk's brain mass goes with it, I'm not so sure that would be a permanent problem for him.

Keep in mind, Vegapunk's brain is apparently constantly growing. So, he can eventually just grow a new brain. Kind of like how Luffy can grow a new tooth from just drinking milk. He might have start over from the beginning, and it might take him a decade or two, but he might be able to work his way back to where he is now.

So, then we might get a background gag of Stella rapidly mentally "aging" from chapter to chapter. One chapter he's a toddler calling Jinbei "dada". The next chapter he's a edgy teen too cool to hang out with the other Strawhats with posters of Sabo on his walls. You know, basically like Groot in the Guardians of the Galaxy movies. It'd just be a cute gag.

Lightning Round!

TLDR?

This is just where I'm going to put things that I don't have enough ideas for to give them their own section. Just a rapid-fire list of stray thoughts, really.

Explain?

Is this whole thing just a troll theory?

No. It's really not. I mean, it'd be one of the most elaborate trolls ever if that was the case. I was just trying my best to keep things a little tongue-in-cheek throughout this. I know this is a crazy long theory, and I was hoping if I kept things somewhat lighter it might keep people engaged.

But, I do think everything I've talked about is something that's possible to happen in the real story.

...How likely some of it actually is, that's another matter. Chances are, I'm completely wrong about all of this. Oda's been holding back so much information that I don't think anyone saw coming that it's almost impossible to predict where he's actually going next. This will probably go down as my folly.

But, I think these are at least interesting ideas. And maybe they spark more theories from others down the line.

And this was fun to write. Speculation is just fun sometimes. Even if it turns out to be completely wrong.

Doesn't the existence of Vasco Shot's Glug-Glug Fruit kind of make your Bink's Sake-Fruit idea redundant?

Yeah, a little. I'll admit it's a problem. But, there are a lot of similar Fruits in One Piece. Like Ace's Flame Fruit and Akainu's Magma Fruit. Or the Kilo and Ton Fruits. Bink's Sake Fruit could just be the upgraded form of Vasco's Fruit.

And we really haven't seen what Vasco's Fruit actually does yet in great detail. There might not be as much overlap as there appears to be.

It does make it feel less special, though. But, it's the best I can think up. It's partially why I added the whole "Joyboy's chopped up pieces" part to my theory.

What about the Transponder Snails?

Yeah...there's something suspicious about those snails. I don't trust them.

I feel like we're going to get a reveal that all the Snails in the entire world have secretly been spying on all of humanity for their TRUE master, all along.

They're so weird, but they've been around in the story for so long we've all gotten used to them just being there in the background. That's prime material for some sort of reveal late in the story.

Maybe they're working for the Alien Empire? Or group of Space Pirates?

Maybe they're just also originally from this world before it got terraformed? I mean, there were probably wild animals on this planet before it got changed to be more like Earth.

I just think it'd be creepy to see them suddenly talk on their own. It'd be a great moment. But, I don't really know where Oda's going with it.

What about the Red Line?

I do subscribe to the theory that the Red Line is not a natural structure. It was probably artificially created, given how whales act around it. And the same's true for the walls around Wano. Whatever created the Red Line probably also put up the walls around Wano. Or if not the same thing, a very similar process.

So, I think this is a product of the terraforming process. Some Devil Fruit probably has the ability to create walls of rock on a grand scale, and a previous user probably made these structures. Like the Skypean Earth God Fruit, or Pizarro's Island Fruit.

This Earth Fruit User probably was originally on the Ancient Kingdom's side, but defected when it started to become more militant. Putting up defenses against the very people they originally helped build the Red Line in order to create Wano's Walls.

What about Foxy?

No.

Is a Strawhat going to die by the end of the Story?

I think it's pretty likely that Luffy will at least FAKE his own death. Luffy aging every time he uses Gear 5 does seem to be planting some death flags for him.

But, I think he'll probably just fake his own death in order to become "the most free man on the sea". If everyone thinks he's dead, no one will be chasing or hunting him anymore.

Really, though, everyone will probably just be "pretending" that they think he's dead. I think everyone will know he's alive, but they'll just go along with his terrible disguises because they appreciate him saving the entire world.

What does Crocodile owe Ivankov?

I really have no idea. I...refuse to believe the Croco-Mom theory, though.

What about the Buccaneers?

I think the secret power of the Buccaneers probably is that their souls literally cannot die. They have the ability to possess different objects after they die and live on through them. Kind of like Brook's soul powers. They literally have undying wills.

It's probably somehow tied to the Devil Fruits, too. At least some of them. Maybe their greatest wish lives on until it is fulfilled.

What about the Emerald City?

I think that might turn out to be Elbaf, maybe? I guess we'll see pretty quickly. Personally, I'm thinking that it's called the "Emerald" city because special plants and trees grow there. Like the Treasure Tree Adam, maybe.

Or possibly it's a place where a Devil Fruit tree grows? I'm not sure about that one, though. There actually is a reference to a Devil Fruit Tree in the prototype for One Piece, Romance Dawn v1. But, I don't know if that's an idea that got scrapped or if it's still coming.

Or...maybe it's where "power crystals" for the Ancient Kingdom's spaceships are growing? I mean, if Luffy ends up needing to go to space, he might need to find a way to power one of these ancient spaceships to get him there. Of course, that might be where Enel comes back into the story, so who knows?

Maybe it's another idea-seed for the inevitable sequel? *shrug*

Where in the world is Laffitte, right now?

Honestly, again, I think he might already be scouting out Elbaf for Blackbeard. Maybe he's kind of working as a twisted version of Huginn and Muninn from Norse Mythology and whispering lies into Loki's ear. Making him more paranoid. He is a bird, after all.

Think like Wormtongue twisting King Theoden's thoughts in the Lord of the Rings.

What about the Ancient Weapons?

Oh, they'll probably get used for the final fight one way or another.

Either they'll be used during the big final war with Blackbeard, or they'll be used to fight the Marines, or they'll be fighting an army of Dragons unfrozen after centuries imprisoned, or some eldritch Nightmare creature. I just don't have a lot to say about them, specifically.

I do subscribe to the 3C Theory, though. I think it's pretty likely that all the Ancient weapons are made up of a Carriage (like the Noah), a Carrier (like the Sea Kings), and a Commander (like Shirahoshi). There's going to be an object, an animal, and a person for all 3 ancient weapons.

It's just that they're probably going to be more action set pieces than anything much interesting to talk about.

What about Gol D Roger's Giant Mystery Egg?

I'm betting it's the Carrier for the Ancient Weapon Uranos. Probably a giant roc's egg or something.

...Unless it turns out to be Hattori. I could just see Oda drawing this tiny bird hatching out of this Giant Egg and everyone being shocked.

What about Nami's biological parents?

Again, I do feel like this will eventually come up in the story, but I'm just not 100% sure how. Nami was a baby when the Oykot Kingdom fell, so her parents could have been the king and queen of the place or they could have been nobodies.

The Oykot Kingdom's name is notable, too, since it's Tokyo backwards. So, I do feel like that kingdom is more important than we might think.

Maybe that's where the Ancient Weapon Uranos was originally buried? And the kingdom was destroyed in a battle, ending with the World Government getting their hands on the Ancient Weapon. Which they've been using to destroy islands like Lulusia with the power of Vegapunk's Mother Flame.

But, seriously, what about Foxy?

Go away. You bother me.

What about Caribou?

I do wonder if he'll turn out to have one of the Skypiean God Fruits. Specifically the Earth God. Swamps and mud are kind of tied to the earth. There's something there. I just don't have a lot to say about the Skypiean Gods.

They might be people who all put their minds into Devil Fruits on purpose? The original astronauts from Earth who had to sacrifice themselves to make sure the survivors from Earth could make their escape?

Why did Lucci and the others from CP9 rejoin the World Government after they went AWOL?

You, know I've been wondering that, too?

Part of me wonders if they aren't being brainwashed, somehow. That's the most interesting twist the story could take. I mean, Jango is still a part of the Marines. Maybe Jango got sent to track them down and hypnotize them into coming back. Now, there's a cover story for you.

Or maybe he's a double agent actually working for SWORD? It's unlikely, but not impossible, I guess.

Who keeps giving Luffy food on Egghead?

I know, right?! And we still don't know who was taking out the cameras on the island, either. I'm guessing the food-giver and the camera-smasher are the same person. But, as for who they are, I really don't know.

It doesn't seem to be either Devon or Caribou, because neither mentioned it when we saw them. And I feel like Oda would have let us know if that was either of them, since they seem to be leaving the island now. Their part in this arc seems to be done, so the time for mentioning it has kind of passed.

I thought maybe it could be Rocks or a clone of Rocks like with Stussy. I do kind of want Rocks to show up sooner rather than later, though. But, they really haven't mentioned Rocks that much this arc, so I don't think it makes sense for it to be him.

Maybe it's Perona and Moria? I could see Perona giving Luffy food from afar with her Horo Horo ghosts. And they might be on the run since escaping from Hachinosu. Maybe they snuck onboard Devon's ship and escaped that way? I don't think the timeline works out for that, though. I think Koby and Garp's raid on Hachinosu happened too recently for Perona and Moria to make it to Egghead already.

But, you know who I really WANT it to be? Smoker. We haven't seen Smoker in a LONG time. He hasn't had a major role in this story since Punk Hazard back in 2013. And since then he's only shown up in a single chapter in 2015. It's way past time Smoker showed back up again.

So, I'm going to say that Smoker is the person who got Luffy the food. I think Smoker's discovered some big secret about the World Government and is on the run from them. Maybe something to do with them brainwashing Lucci and the other CP9 agents. Smoker would actually kind of blend in on Egghead, with all the clouds everywhere. And we know he's had to go there before to pick up medicine for the giant kids from Punk Hazard. So, why not?

What about the Mysterious Shadowy Figures in the Florian Triangle during Thriller Bark?

My best guess is that they're other Oni and Dragons who might have escaped from the Icy Prison inside the planet's core. They might just be hiding out so they don't get captured again.

What about the Lunarians?

Maybe they're humans from Earth, too. Only they stayed on the Moon instead coming down to live on the planet.

Maybe the original Ancient Kingdom colonizers originally set up colonies on both the Moon and the surface of the planet.

What is the Will of D?

You've read enough of this theory. It's probably "Dragon".

That might be why Imu hates the D-Initial so much. She might hate her "ugly" dragon form and think people are mocking her for having it. She might think it's a personal insult. Like a old nickname that she just can't shake.

...Which means, yes, Monkey D Dragon's true name is actually...Monkey Dragon Dragon (...rock the dragon).

Yup, that's definitely something Oda would do. If only for the yuks.

But, yeah, it could be something like "Dream" or "Dawn" or something like that, too. But, "Dragon" fits best with this theory.

What about Buggy?

Oh, he's gonna become the new King of the World. If Imu gets deposed or leaves on a adventure of her own to reconnect with her people again by the end of the story, someone's going to have to take over.

And Buggy's always failing upwards. So, completely taking over the world by accident just makes sense for him. You can't fail upwards any harder than becoming the ruler of the world. (Stupid, dead end job...)

And Buggy's SUPER popular. If there's an election for their new leader, I can see Buggy winning just on write in ballots alone. He'll probably be miserable the whole time. It'll be hilarious.

What about Captain John's Treasure?

I mean, it sure feels like it's hinted in Chapter 1096 that it's at least one of the Devil Fruits. Maybe Captain John had a collection of Devil Fruits? Or a Devil Fruit Tree? Or one very special Devil Fruit?

...If it turns out that Buggy's Chop Chop Fruit was Captain John's treasure is entire time, that'd be simultaneously the most disappointing and hilarious thing, ever. Buggy's been trying to find something that he's already gotten decades ago.

What is the Crown Jewel of Hachinosu?

...Maybe it's the same thing as Captain John's Treasure? This story has a lot of unsolved mythical treasures, I'll tell you what.

What pulled Capone Bege into the sky when he first entered the New World? (Chapter 594)

It was probably just some crazy upside-down island. Maybe a half-Sky Island? The Grand Line is weird. We saw a entire montage of the Worst Generation finding weird islands in that chapter. Like Urouge finding that lightning island.

...Or it was the Mother Flame and/or Uranos...Or a Space Pirate. We'll see where that goes.

What about Urouge?

I have no idea. We know almost nothing about Urouge. I have nothing to speculate about!

...Maybe he'll end up fighting Enel when he comes back into the story?

What about Gin?

Don't worry about Gin. Gin went to live on a nice farm. He teamed up with Magellan and they cured his poisoning together. He's actually learning to enjoy Magellan's cooking.

C'mon! Give us something for Foxy!

FINE! Foxy's actually a Space Pirate in disguise! Do you really think that nose is real?! And Captain Seamars, one of the only Space Pirates we've seen, actually looks like a giant fox! And Foxy's Slow Fruit is suspiciously scientific for this world! How does someone like Foxy even know about "particles"? Foxy's just wearing a human skin-suit to disguise himself among the natives of this planet to spy on them for his Space Pirate crew! Preparing for an invasion! THERE! Are you happy now?!

Well you SHOULD be happy...because this Megatheory is finally over now!

I hope that made some modicum of sense. And I'm sorry for all the spelling and grammar errors that are probably littered throughout this theory. It's one guy doing all this alone, things are going to slip through.

But before you go...one last snack break.

Because, yes, I ordered pizza for everyone who read this theory.

The pizzas are finally here...and they're amazing



So, a big thank you for everyone who read through this entire behemoth.

...I don't know why you bothered, but still, thank you!

Yes, even YOU who just skipped all the way to the last page without reading any of this. C'mon over here and grab a slice with the rest of us!