

# Chapter 51: Another Journey

In Chapter 46, "Another Journey," Jack uses the Talisman to heal Speedy and Richard, though he can barely remember the process. The Talisman's light fades after the healing, leaving Jack emotionally drained as he mourns his mother. Speedy, now appearing as Parkus in the Territories, reassures Jack that the Talisman's power will return. Despite being healed, Speedy remains weakened, hinting at the toll this world has taken on him. The group prepares to "flip" to another dimension, with Jack trusting Speedy's guidance despite his exhaustion and confusion.

After transitioning to the Territories, Jack encounters Parkus, Speedy's healthier counterpart, who explains the need for rest, especially for Richard, who narrowly escaped death. Parkus leads them away from the remnants of Morgan's evil, choosing a safer spot on the beach. Jack notices the diminished threat of the black castle and the scattered remnants of battle, sensing the absence of the darkness that once dominated the area. Parkus emphasizes the importance of staying in the Territories to avoid the chaos unfolding in their original world.

Parkus reveals his role as the Judge General and Lord High Executioner in the Territories, tasked with maintaining order after Morgan's death. He advises Jack to travel east upon waking, avoiding a return until they reach a massive tree, which will guide them back to their world near Storyville, California. Parkus hints at a possible reunion with someone familiar but leaves the details ambiguous. Despite Jack's concerns about Speedy's declining health, Parkus reassures him that Speedy still has time left, offering a promise of future encounters.

As the chapter concludes, Parkus comforts Jack, urging him to rest and trust the journey ahead. Jack, overwhelmed by exhaustion, succumbs to sleep, symbolizing a temporary reprieve from his arduous quest. The chapter underscores themes of trust, sacrifice, and the lingering effects of evil, while setting the stage for the next phase of

Jack's journey. Parkus's dual identity as both a powerful figure in the Territories and a humble traveler in Jack's world highlights the interconnectedness of their realities.

