**Chapter 1: The World in Turmoil**

In the year 1089 AD, the world population stood around 300 million. This was a period when traders began traveling across the world, selling their goods for gold and silver. Most Jivas (referred to as humans) were practicing agriculture in various parts of the world. The time marked the ongoing war between the Danish Vikings and England.

Jivas had three main jobs to choose from:

1. Be a warrior

2. Be a farmer

3. Be a trader

The primary aim of kings was to gain control over other kingdoms by winning wars. Jivas began settling in new areas, forming new villages, and developing new cultures. Different religions such as Christianity, Norse, Roman, and Islam emerged during this time. Wars were taking place everywhere to seize land. There were around 229 kingdoms ruled by kings and another 86 self-governed kingdoms. Most kingdoms had armies and powerful weapons. Every king desired more wealth and power to control the Jivas, frequently engaging in wars to expand their territories.

But amidst this chaos, there was another group—the \*\*Pirates\*\*—who ruled the seas. Pirates didn’t directly serve anyone and were paid warriors. They would do anything for those who offered gold. There were numerous pirate clans spread across the globe. Pirates were officially branded as criminals by every kingdom, but they worked for anyone who paid them. Most Jivas viewed them as devils and always wished for their demise. There were \*\*seven pirate clans\*\* as strong and powerful as any kingdom.

**Chapter 2: Iceland – Land of Ice and Isolation**

In the farthest reaches of the world lay Iceland, an unclaimed land where no king ruled. Most of the year, it was covered in ice, and the main source of food was meat, primarily sheep. Crops could only be cultivated for three months, and the rest of the year was an ice age. Jivas cultivated crops during these three months and stored them to survive the long winter.

Iceland remained isolated from the turmoil of the outside world—no wars, no slavery, no rulers. The Jivas here were untouched by any kings due to the infertile land and harsh living conditions. But the long winters led to food shortages, making survival difficult. Jivas had to produce crops and raise livestock to ensure they had enough food to survive.

**Chapter 3: An Unusual Morning**

**Asce**: "Uhhh… it's so cold outside. I wish I could lie in this bed forever."

*\*...Started hearing footsteps as the door opened forcefully…\**

**Emma**: "Asceee!!! Hey, will you please get up and milk the sheep? The sun has been set for an hour already…" \*says angrily.\*

**Asce**: "Can't you do it yourself? I did it yesterday myself…"

**Emma**: "Me and Mom are going into the forest to get some wood. Winter’s in a month. You’ll be milking the sheep for the entire next month, so better get used to it and make yourself useful."

*\*...Finishes talking and slams the door...\**

**Asce**: "Wait, what?! No way I’m doing it for a month!" \*shouts angrily\*

**Asce**: "MOMMMM! Where are you?!"

*\*...removes the bed sheet and walks out of the room, calling his mom...\**

*\*...Asce walks outside the house, calling out “mom” loudly, but he finds no one. He goes into the kitchen, then to the sheep shed, and finally to the farm, but he doesn’t see anyone outside...\**

**Asce**: "Emma!" \*calls out again, but she doesn’t reply either.\*

*\*…Asce feels a chill down his spine. There was no one in the house, and it was his first time being alone. He sat down in the sheep shed, staring at the sheep with a worried look...\**

**Chapter 4: The Mysterious Figure**

*\*...Suddenly, Asce hears a loud noise coming from the storage room. He slowly walks towards the room, terrified. The door is slightly ajar, and he hears a mature voice saying...\**

**???**: "This winter is gonna be hard…"

*\*A man, standing tall—more than six feet—with a muscular build appears before him. Asce notices the man holding a large, blood-soaked knife. Two lifeless bodies lay beside his feet, blood pooling around them. The man’s body is also covered in blood. Asce’s heart pounds as he freezes, thinking that his sister and mother have been killed.\**

*\*...The figure slowly turns around and sees Asce. Asce can’t see the face clearly because it is pitch black inside. The man starts walking towards the door where Asce stands. Asce remains rooted to the spot, paralyzed by fear. The large figure approaches him, raising his hand with the knife and speaking softly...\**

**Thor**: "So, you saw the scene, huh, Asce? Probably shouldn’t have seen this, little boy…"

**Chapter 5: A Father's Truth**

**Asce**: "Father..." *with a shocked expression.*

*...After a brief pause, Asce steps forward, glancing into the dark room. His heart races as he spots two beheaded sheep lying on the floor, blood pooling beneath them...*

**Asce**: "Uh-huh! Father, what are you doing in this pitch-black room?"

**Thor**: *calmly* "I’m cutting the meat for next month’s rations. We need to prepare for winter. I think you should leave now. This isn’t something you should see."

*...Relieved, Asce leaves the room, comforting himself with the thought that his mother and sister have already gone to the forest to gather wood, unaware of the scene inside...*

**Chapter 6: Julius's Return**

*...That evening, a trader from Iceland named Julius returned from his journey, sailing the seas and selling goods across the world. Whenever Julius comes back, he visits Thor’s house, and children from the village gather there to hear his adventures...*

**Julius**: *proudly* "The land was completely green, stretching as far as the eye could see. We established our base there for a week. On the third sunrise, a group of Jivas, wearing animal skins, surrounded us with spears. I slowly raised my hands, bowed my head, and spoke to them. You see, children, this deer-skin dress is a gift from them."

*...Julius laughed loudly and proudly...*

**Asce**: "Wow, Uncle Julius, you’re awesome! Can you please let me join your crew? I want to be part of your journey. Take me on your boat next time you sail the seas."

*...A gentle voice spoke from behind, as someone was sewing a cloth made from sheep's fur...*

**Sakura**: *in a gentle tone* "I think you’re too young to be going to sea, Asce."

**Kid from the village**: "No way! You’re lying, Uncle Julius! There's no land that’s completely green. Don’t try to fool us, old man!"

*...All the kids started laughing loudly, except Asce...*

**Asce**: In aconfused state "Are you really lying, Uncle?"

**Chapter 7: A Question of Belief**

*...The door opens forcefully, and Emma enters the house...*

**Emma**: "Are you for real, Asce? Do you honestly think this old man is telling the truth?"

*...Julius smirks and puts his hand on Asce, ruffling his hair...*

**Thor**: "I think that's enough for today, kids. The sun set long ago, and it's already dark. I’ll walk you home; your parents must be worried."

*...The kids and Thor leave the house, saying goodbye to Asce and Julius...*

**Asce**: "Uncle, the adventures you told us about... they’re true, right?"

**Julius**: *pats him and leaves* "You’ll find out when you get older, Asce."

**Chapter 8: The Arrival of Folke**

*...In the Atlantic Ocean, a boat with 20 Viking soldiers and their leader, Folke, was heading towards Iceland. The sea roiled beneath them, waves crashing against the sturdy hull as the wind howled, carrying the scent of salt and adventure...*

**Folke**: *booming voice* "I think we've caught the current, soldiers. We’ll reach Iceland in three days. Lower the sails, and don’t waste the rations."

**Soldiers**: "Yes, sir!"

*...They worked quickly, lowering the sails and securing their supplies. Folke felt a mix of anticipation and dread; he knew the challenges ahead could test their courage and unity as warriors...*

**Chapter 9: Asce’s Determination**

*...Tick, tick! The wooden swords of children clashed as they practiced their swordsmanship. Asce was eliminated in just two seconds during the battle, and the other kids laughed at him as they moved forward...*

**Asce**: "Why am I always the one who dies first in the game?" *He lays on the ground, disappointed.*

*...At the seashore, Julius was preparing his boat for leaving Iceland to trade goods with other nations...*

**Asce**: "Wait! Today is the day Julius will be leaving for the sea. I should probably go ask him to join his crew."

*...He wakes up from the ground and starts running toward the shore...*

**Chapter 10: A Young Boy's Dream**

*...Asce runs to the small harbor in the Icelandic village...*

**Asce**: "Hey, old man! I know you’re leaving for the sea today. Please let me join your crew; I promise I’ll be useful!"

**Julius**: "Look, little one, the sea is not a place for kids like you. Once you’re older and strong enough, I’ll let you join my crew."

**Asce**: "I’m not a kid anymore! I am the great man, son of Thor!"

**Julius**: "What is your age, Asce?"

**Asce**: "Uh-huh, I’m 8, I guess, but that’s not important! You see, I am strong!"

*...Julius slowly pats his head and says...*

**Julius**: "Strength comes with experience, my boy."

**Chapter 11: The Past Unveiled**

**Julius**: "Asce, do you know how the outside world works? Do you know why we live in a place like this, which isn’t good for living conditions?"

**Asce**: "I thought we were all born here."

**Julius**: "We established this village 17 years ago. We ran away from the Norwegian kingdom to escape the king's rule and slavery."

**Asce**: "No way! You’re lying, old man! My father is a proud man; there’s no way he would have fled from Norway out of fear!"

**Julius**: "Asce, you are still a kid. You will need time to understand this."

*...Julius smiles, slowly patting Asce on the head...*

**Chapter 12: A Child's Wrath**

*...Asce can't believe Julius's words...*

**Asce**: "No way! My father ran away!"

*...He jumps down from Julius's boat, picks up his wooden sword, and storms back to the training ground...*

**Kid from the village**: "Look who’s back! Little Asce, the one who got knocked out in two hits!"

*...Asce's anger ignites. He lunges at the kid, who goes flying through the air for a moment before crashing to the ground. The other children, sensing weakness, swarm Asce, taunting him...*

*...With a fierce glare, Asce grips his wooden sword tightly, the world around him blurring. He swings wildly, knocking one kid down and, in the heat of the moment, he accidentally breaks another's arm...*

*...Asce, panting with rage, turns and strides toward the forest, leaving the chaos behind him...*

**Chapter 13: A Foreboding Presence**

*...Jivas and Julius stood near the shore, watching as a warship approached, a foreboding sight. The Jivas were filled with dread as the imposing vessel cut through the icy waters. Young Jivas drew their swords and spears, preparing to defend their home...*

*...In no time, the warship anchored at the shore, and soldiers disembarked—towering figures between 6’5” and 7’ tall, their muscular frames encased in heavy armor. The leader, Folke, stepped off the ship with a commanding presence...*

*...Without warning, a young boy named Yuno charged at Folke, sword raised. But in a split second, Folke pinned Yuno to the ground with a swift, powerful motion...*

**Folke**: "We have no intentions to fight here unless you make me meet a man called 'Thor.'"