

— *March 20, 1905. 9:00 P.M.* —

Aigis and Frieda shared a large room on the second floor of the large house above the living and dining room area. On the wall across from the door was a giant window. Their beds were on opposite sides of the room, Aigis' to the left of the window and Frieda's to the right. The two girls sat on the floor in front of Frieda's bed. Frieda had a towel wrapped around her tiny nightgown, a long, white silk dress. She was no longer covered in river water, she really didn't need it anymore, but it was too soft and comfy to leave. Aigis had on her dark blue nightgown. Irma had wrapped the both of them into a rose-colored blanket. The two children had been friends for as long as they both could remember and shared pretty much everything. Irma sat on the bed beside the two, silently watching them with a small smile.

Wood creaked as the door slowly opened. Johanna was holding a pink picture book in her left arm and holding up a candle in her free hand. She walked over to a random chair in the room and placed the book in the seat. With one hand, she dragged the chair across from where Aigis and Frieda were sitting. She sat the candle down and picked up the book.

"Aigis, I have something special to share with you." Johanna smiled as she held up the book to show her daughter the cover. It was a picture book. The title of the book read, "Über Aurae und die Psychokinetischen Menschen (About Aurae and the Psychokinetic People)" The front cover depicted a group of people basking in a field filled with floating green dots.

"Are those fireflies?" Frieda quizzically inquired.

"You're right, they DO look like fireflies! Good job!" Irma said with pride, patting Frieda's small head. Johanna looked up at Irma with a blank expression.

"Irma, I need to read this to them, so if you could..."

"I'll be quiet." She earnestly nodded, wishing not to cause trouble for her boss.

“No, I mean, it’s a privacy thing. So I can’t have you in here.”

“O-Oh.” Irma stuttered with mild dejection. The young housemaid slowly stood up and curtsied to Johanna before walking toward the door.

“Don’t worry, you’re relieved from duty for the rest of the night. Feel free to relax, you’ve earned it.”

“Thank you, Frau Schumacher.” Irma thanked before shutting the door behind her. Johanna looked Frieda in the eye yet again. Only Aigis needed to hear this story. She briefly considered calling Irma back to take Frieda with her. But she relented. Frieda overhearing this story wouldn’t hurt anything. In fact, maybe she needed to hear it too.

“Mama?”

“Yes, Aigis?”

“I heard from Gisela about those new light sitches. The ones that you flip and they turn on lights,” She managed to explain between missing teeth and difficult words. “She said that we won’t need candles anymore.”

“Light *switches*, honey.” Johanna corrected. “And we don’t have it here, yet. That’s why we still use candles.”

“But why don’t we have ele— elec— elecsissity?”

“It’s still pretty new, and only the bigger cities have it. But eventually, it will make its way here.”

“So when is that?” Frieda joined in, snuggling herself in the covers. Johanna sighed before turning back to Aigis.

“Your father vowed to never let electricity touch this house. He says it would go against everything he believes in,” She shook her head in disbelief. “Aigis, you said that some kind of weird wave came from your hand and pushed Frieda into the river?”

Aigis nodded. Johanna opened the book and looked at its contents. “I can explain what happened. It’s very important, and it’s based on a true story.”

Aigis and Frieda looked up at Johanna, eager to hear the story. Johanna looked at the girls before opening the book and beginning the story.

“In our world is a mystic life energy. It surrounds the natural environment and lies within every living being. This life energy is called Aurae. It’s invisible, but everywhere. Thousands of years ago, people eventually learned how to tap into the Aurae reserve inside of their own body, how to draw it from the environment, and they learned how to manipulate it into magic. Those people were Psychokinetics. They believed Aurae came from a place deep within the Earth called the Lifestream. When all living beings die, they will someday return to the afterlife in the Lifestream.”

She flipped a page. “Psychokinetics during these times were a part of many cultures, whether they be Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt, China, and many more. Each culture had their own council of Psychokinetics. They were teachers, leaders, healers, inventors, explorers, and many more.”

Aigis couldn’t believe her ears. Even though she never met or even heard of these people, the idea of this great civilization existing fascinated her. She felt an odd connection, a connection she couldn't quite understand.

“What did they do?” Frieda asked. Johanna tapped her chin, thinking. She then licked her finger and flipped through several pages. She stopped at a page depicting a woman in Ancient Greek clothing sitting on the grass with a young boy beside her.

“This was an Ancient Greek psychokinetic philosopher named Philomela. Her key knowledge of the environment and its patterns is what helped Greece gain a leg up on its rivals and establish its empire. In Japan during the Heian period, a samurai named Fujiwara no Yasumasa once managed to take a flurry of about 10,000 arrows and use the powers of the winds to redirect them back at his enemies. And in Egypt, an ancient Pharaoh named Thutmose IV used his power to help construct the Sphinx. Many psychokinetics went on to change the world.”

“So... Can I meet one of them?” Aigis asked with bated breath.

“Meet one?” Her mother chuckled. “Aigis, you ARE one.”

The young blonde blinked. Was this a joke? Aigis stared up at her mother. Johanna set the book down and picked up Aigis to sit on her lap.

“Your father comes from a long line of psychokinetics tracing back to Ancient Rome. You’re not just any psychokinetic. You’re one of the most powerful ones alive today. You’re special, Aigis.”

“Today?” Aigis asked. “What happened to them?”

Johanna bit her lip. She didn’t answer right away. “They all went to the Promised Land.”

“The Promised Land?”

“The Psychokinetic people were promised by the Lifestream that we would have a place all to ourselves. And anyone who follows their teachings honestly and fervently will find themselves there, joining all the psychokinetics in eternal peace.”

“Even me?”

“Even you,” Johanna smiled warmly. She enjoyed watching the young girl’s expressions. Her eyes sparkled as she soaked up this information. Johanna picked up the candle laying on the arm of the chair. She placed Aigis on both feet and walked her over to her bed on the opposite side of the room. She placed Aigis in the bed and pulled the covers over her. “Now off to bed.”

“But I don’t wanna go to bed! I wanna learn more!” Aigis cried.

“You’ll learn more soon, I promise.”

“But—!”

“They’re watching from the Promised Land, Aigis. Naughty little girls who don’t go to bed on time won’t ever be allowed there.”

“Good night!” Aigis chirped.

“Good girl.” Johanna patted Aigis and went to the door. As she reached for the knob with her free hand, Frieda’s voice pierced the quiet air.

“What about me?” She called out, whimpering slightly.

“G’night, Frieda.” Johanna mumbled, not even bothering to raise her voice any higher than she needed to. The door slammed. Aigis stared up at her violet-colored canopy flowing over her like a silk sky. Her mind raced at the prospect of these Psychokinetic people. The various stories she was told ranged from healing plagues to helping countries raise their empires to their legendary status. She would get to meet them and live with them and be happy forever. And this “promised land”. A land that sounded like a paradise. Aigis looked at her hand and wiggled her fingers. What would the Promised Land look like? Who would she meet there? What kind of greatness would she be surrounded by? There was only one way to find out.