

INT. DREAMER VILLAGE HOSPITAL

(ELDERS VOTE)

In a large empty room of the hospital, the Head Nurse, who is also an Elder, is having a meeting with other Elders about the latest developments on their efforts to solve the water crisis.

VILLAGE ELDER 1

It's only the first week of distribution and the reserves are halfway empty.

HEAD NURSE

Halfway? Are you sure?

VILLAGE ELDER 1

And that's only giving out a quarter ration.

VILLAGE ELDER 2

I've done everything I know how to do in order to raise the water supply... I don't know how to explain the dry grey clouds, they just don't give any water. And I've tried everything else from sky evaporators, toxic water converters, produce milking, dry-net atmospheric capturing, and a dozen other things. We got so desperate, we even had to impound villagers' personal water reserves. I really just don't know what else to do. I feel so helpless.

HEAD NURSE

You're working so hard, don't give up. We will find something that works. What about the other towns and villages, can they spare anything?

VILLAGE ELDER 1

We have received replies from all 111 known villages and towns, even the villages we are in disputes with. This is happening to everyone, everywhere! I think the only real option we have left is a village-wide slumber.

VILLAGE ELDER 2

I have to agree. I just don't see any other way we will survive.

(MORE)

VILLAGE ELDER 2 (cont'd)

We need to order a village-wide slumber and have search parties sent out until water can be found or the rivers and falls flow again.

HEAD NURSE

Will the search parties have enough water?

VILLAGE ELDER 1

No, not if they don't find new water sources soon. But we will all die a lot sooner if we don't initiate a slumber.

VILLAGE ELDER 2

How long can a Dreamer go without water while in slumber?

HEAD NURSE

It really depends on the person, but anywhere from a few months to a few decades.

VILLAGE ELDER 2

Then the choice seems clear.

The Head Nurse reflects for a moment. She nods yes knowing it's the only option.

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