

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.

ELDER 1

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

HEAD NURSE

Halfway? Are you sure?

ELDER 1

And that's only giving out a quarter ration.

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?

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.

ELDER 2

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

(MORE)

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?

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.

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.

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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