

GAIA AND THE ART OF DREAMING

She was Gaia, an ardent for life girl, but most importantly, a big dreamer. Since the moment she was born, she had had a great passion for experiencing, for learning about the world, and letting the world know her, too. She was different; she was constantly wondering about where all that surrounded her came from and how things occur, but she specially wanted to understand the overall reason for every element bumping into her way. Gaia had the power to take positive things from the negative ones, to see a black and white picture in different color tonalities and to sing what has been written with pure melancholy. Nothing seemed to stop her from doing what she was most passionate about. School was not a place for her. Her heart broke every time she realized they were being taught to be the same, to think the same, to like the same things. It was a place where ideas became blurred and dreams where simple dreams. She was the sun hidden behind monotony, which must deal with clouds upon her head. But what truly disheartened Gaia were the art classes; she had always been passionate about art because she felt like it was a way to escape from the world, or better said, to create a new one. She could spend hours and hours drawing anything that came to her mind; she was able to give life to unreal phenomena. Gaia wanted to capture it all on a paper to avoid giving time the advantage and erase it all from her memory.

Gaia remembers the day she was walking along the fields with her pet. This was one of her favorite things to do because she loved its tranquility and the fresh air traversing her lungs. She usually decided to lie on the grass and start gazing at the clouds; it was such a good activity for developing within her mind. Gaia only had to see what she wanted to, and as the wind made the clouds change their position, a new figure showed up. She was able to see angels, exotic flowers, and even imaginary animals. She told her mum she had been able to see a dragon carrying a rose in its mouth, but her mums answer was very discouraging:

-Clouds only have one specific function in the world, which is to distribute the burn of the sun heat all over earth -said her mum-. Now my question is, what are your feet touching, the ground or the clouds?

-The ground.

-Exactly. And that means clouds are only up there for a reasonable cause, not for us to avoid reality and conjure up imaginary worlds -said her mum-. Gaia, you need to start seeing things as they are, otherwise you might not be strong enough for life. Keep that in mind.

Gaia's ideas were truly clear in her mind. She would never stop doing what she enjoyed the most, but her mum's words truly hurt her. That is why she decided she would prove to her that anything can feel real, and that, if you fight for it, dreams can be even more interesting and exciting each time. That night she had an incredible dream: she was alone on a boat, sailing to

nowhere in the middle of a plastic-polluted ocean. But suddenly, all the rubbish started to rise above the water creating a giant figure. It had no face at all, but despite that he could speak. He proceeded to intone some words:

-What is your name little girl?

-I am Gaia. - she said

-Now I see why you are here. - responded the giant-

Did you know that name was given to the Earth Goddess? I guess you have been chosen by her to explain to people to stop destroying the earth and start taking care of it since it is theirs too. Their home.

-I will make sure they start being conscientious. - said Gaia-. I will spread your words.

But before she was able to say goodbye to the giant, she had already woken up. After that, she went downstairs to explain the story to her mother.

-Well that was a great dream. - said her mother.

-Do you see it now? You can learn from anything that has been given to you. And dreams are only yours, that is why we should always take advantage of them. You can dream big, and it does not matter how unreal your dreams might seem, you should always be able to express them. To translate them.

Since that day Gaia's mum had comprehended that even the ones more experienced can learn a lot from the younger ones. Gaia kept doing what she adored and tried to share all her creative ideas with the rest of the world. No one would ever be able to grant her creativity just to take it away from her. She would not allow those clouds to stop her from being and expressing herself.

Just keep on mind that if you ever feel down about something people has told you not to do, remember to ask yourself this question: **are you living or just existing?**