

## The first encounter

Paul slowly opens his eyes and looks carefully around him. He finds himself in a completely white room in which the walls and floors merge almost seamlessly.

"What happened?!" Paul asks, completely cluelessly.

*"You had a fall with your bike and you hit your head against a rock quite severely"*, she answers him calmly and serenely.

"Really? I don't remember anything", he says to himself.

*"That's what you humans are like"*, she replies, amused.



"You humans? And who are you, if I may ask?" Paul knows, showing his surprise.

*"I am an angel"*, she answers him.

"An angel", he says, "Did I die?" it comes out of his mouth in shock.

*"No, don't worry, not yet. If you prove yourself, you'll have many years ahead of you"*, she says smiling.

"Prove myself? Prove myself as what?" he wants to know, astonished.

*"In life, you fool!"* she returns in a serious voice.

"Fool? I think I've earned some respect from you!" he angrily bursts out.

*"You'll have to earn it, silly."* She gives him a light slap on the back of the head.

"Hey, what's going on?" he asks, slightly enraged.

"Is there a hidden camera here somewhere?" he wants to know, searching the area with his eyes.

*"No, stupid. You are merely in life. Or at least in what you've done with your life", she mocks him back.*

*"Whoever you are, I want to speak to your supervisor. I will not be called a fool, nor will I be beaten. What hospital am I in anyway?" he barks back, showing his anger.*

*"Man, you're really annoying, fool. You're not in a hospital, you're in the angel's intermediate world", she replies, irritated.*

*"I've had enough. Where is the emergency bell here?" he asks urgently.*



*"Bell? You are not in a hotel where you can call for service. He's also arrogant, the earthling", she makes him understand clearly.*

*"If you don't get me the person in charge here, I'll leave", he snaps at her in disgust.*

*He sits up carefully and lets his legs hang down from the bed, one by one. When he wants to put his feet on the ground, it startles him.*

*There is no floor beneath him.*

*Nothing that feels solid under the soles of his feet.*

*"Damn. What's there?" he wants to know with his eyes wide open.*

*"It would be more useful to ask what isn't there", she returns, cynically.*

*"Will you tell me what's going on? Am I dreaming?" he asks desperately.*

*"Dreams are a way to change into the disembodied state and thus are the ticket to the spiritual world.*

*Into our world. But everything at its correct time", she whispers into his ear.*