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The Knight's Vow (Inspired by "Mobile Suit Gundam: The Witch from Mercury")

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The little bird fluttered closer, its feathers brushing her cheek.

"Yes, but I could not survive with the whole of the earth beneath my feet. I could not walk without stumbling. I could not bear the weight of the universe on my shoulders."

The woman opened her mouth to speak, but the little bird went on:

"I may see things from up high, but it is not so much a view as what you see looking up. My neck is barred down all day, while your gaze is up at the sky. I've nothing to look up to. My limits only fall down."

A tear rolled down the woman's face.

"Why do you want to fly?" the little bird asked.

"No other man or woman has wings to follow me into the clouds," the woman whispered. "I could go there and maybe people would forget about me."

"Why forgotten?"

"The sorrow I've caused would melt away with the joy when everyone forgets."

The little bird plucked out its own plumes.

"What is it like to walk?" the little bird asked as it displayed its plucked feathers before her.

"It gets very heavy," the woman replied.

"That's what flying is like," the bird said. "That's what flying is like when we leave home and go south for the winter."

The woman picked up a feather, examined its fibers sticking together desperately. She placed it back down in the row.

"Keep one," the little bird said. "You may not fly, but you can walk."

Mars Pinkelman — Digital Drawing

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