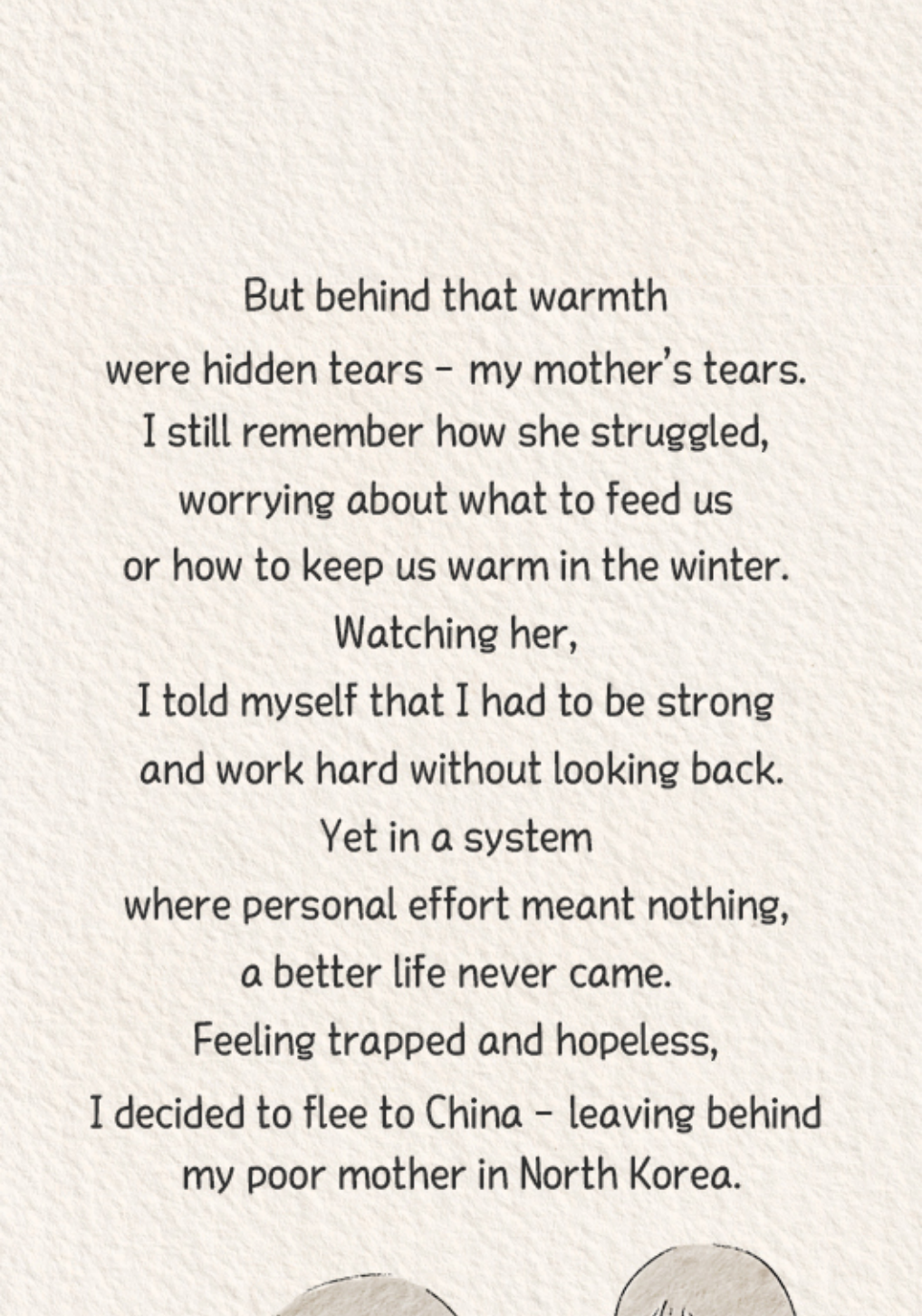

Heavenly Dream Prayer Letter

Hello, my name is Yeonmi Ju,
and I am from North Korea.
Although my childhood was marked
by financial hardship,
I was happy with my parents and siblings.
I will never forget the love and warmth
I felt in my family, sharing everything,
even the smallest things,
and enduring hardship together.

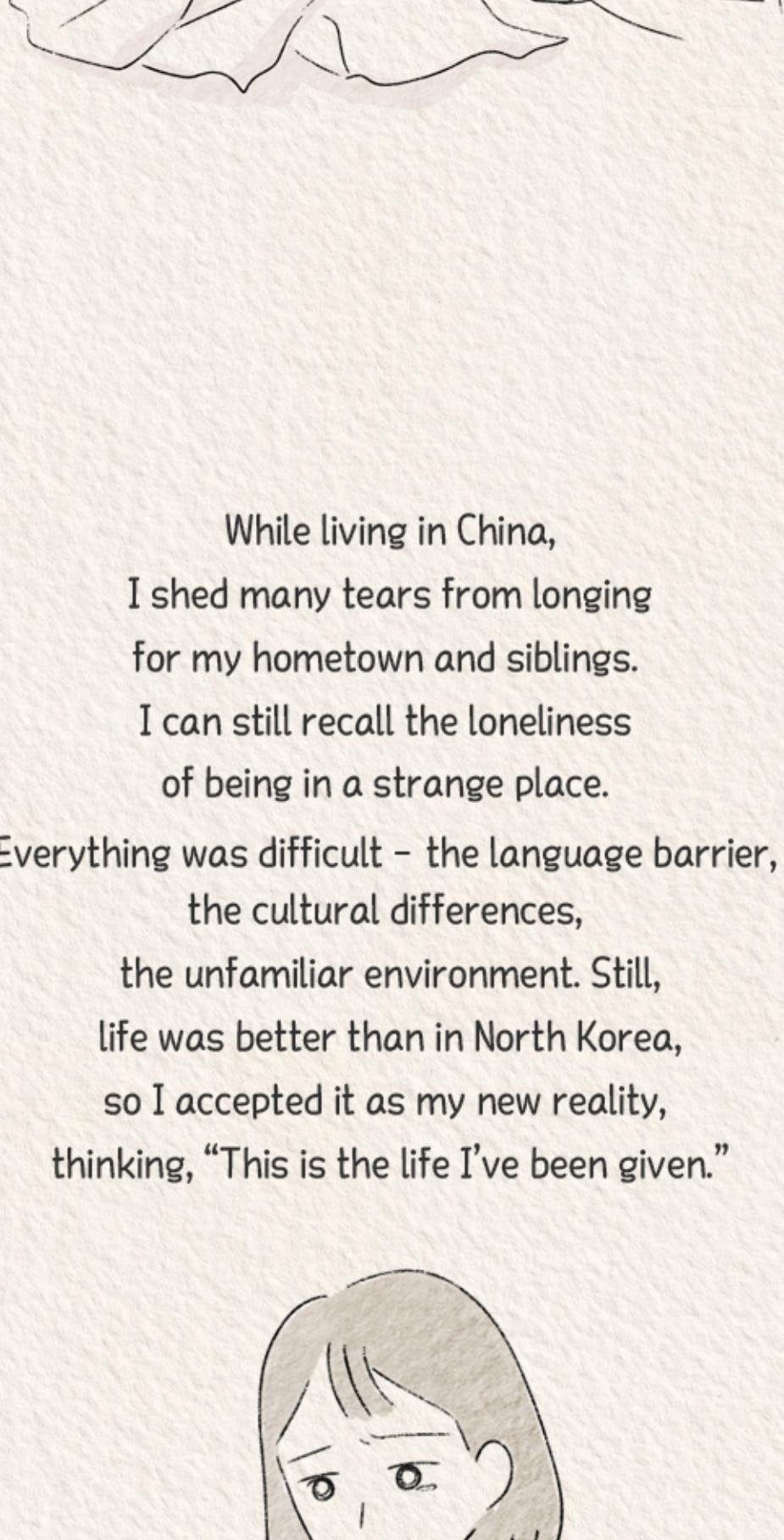


But behind that warmth
were hidden tears – my mother’s tears.
I still remember how she struggled,
worrying about what to feed us
or how to keep us warm in the winter.

Watching her,
I told myself that I had to be strong
and work hard without looking back.

Yet in a system
where personal effort meant nothing,
a better life never came.

Feeling trapped and hopeless,
I decided to flee to China – leaving behind
my poor mother in North Korea.



While living in China,
I shed many tears from longing
for my hometown and siblings.
I can still recall the loneliness
of being in a strange place.
Everything was difficult – the language barrier,
the cultural differences,
the unfamiliar environment. Still,
life was better than in North Korea,
so I accepted it as my new reality,
thinking, “This is the life I’ve been given.”



As time passed, a friend
of mine went to South Korea,
and out of curiosity,
I decided to follow.
When I arrived in South Korea,
I experienced incredible joy.
It was amazing to live in a place
where people spoke the same language as me,
and I was grateful for the government’s support
and the chance to discover freedom and rights
I had never known in North Korea.

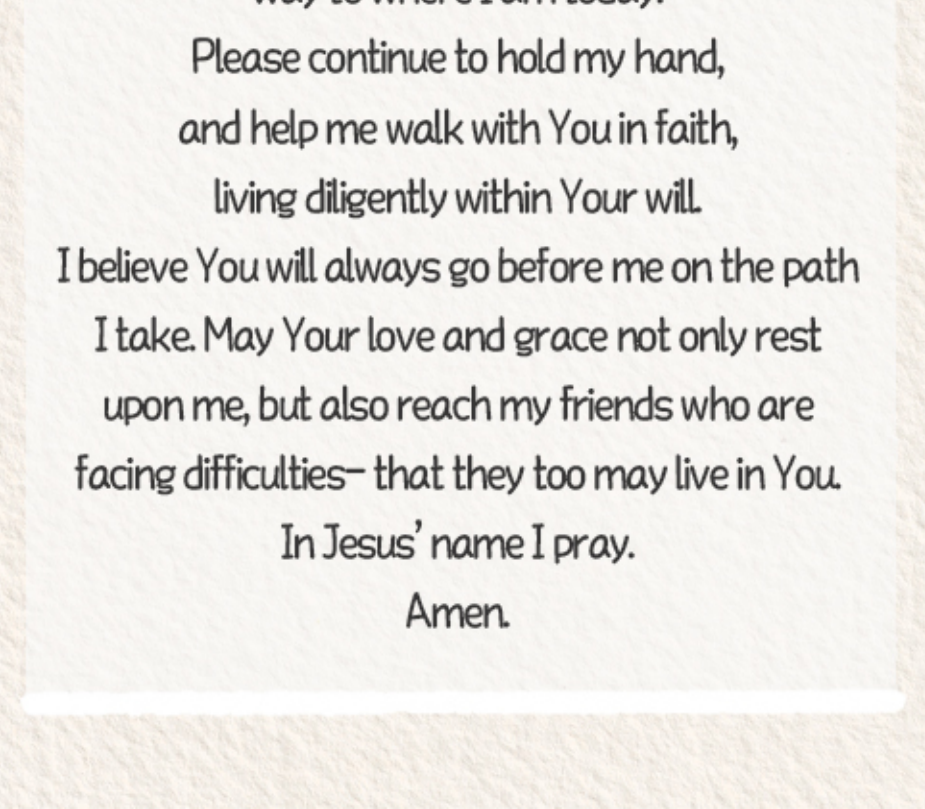


But that joy didn’t last long.
I soon realized how hard it was to adapt
in a country far more developed
than North Korea. Though I used Korean,
South Korea was full of unfamiliar
foreign words I couldn’t understand.
And since I lacked both education
and technical skills,
finding a job and adjusting to
society felt almost impossible.

My back often hurt,
and I became overwhelmed with hopelessness.

There were days
when I didn’t want to leave the house,
when I just sat blankly,
not knowing what to do – and cried alone.

Then, a teacher
I met in South Korea encouraged me
to go back to school.
When I hesitated, the teacher said,
“Even a good opportunity is
only useful to those who are prepared.”
Through a friend, I learned
about Heavenly Dream School
and eventually enrolled.



Now, I’m studying hard,
hoping to go to university
and earn a childcare qualification.
I want to find my place in society, discover
what I’m passionate about,
and keep learning and growing.

Yeon-mi’s Prayer Request

Dear God,
I believe that You have led and guided me all the
way to where I am today.
Please continue to hold my hand,
and help me walk with You in faith,
living diligently within Your will.
I believe You will always go before me on the path
I take. May Your love and grace not only rest
upon me, but also reach my friends who are
facing difficulties– that they too may live in You.
In Jesus’ name I pray.
Amen.