

8- İpek Oğuzhan AY

Dan Brown in the Middle Ages

Daniel of Glentingaburg was the first son of Richard of Glentingaburg, followed by a sister and a brother. His father, Richard of Glentingaburg, was an esteemed merchant trading fine clothing (notably silk). Richard was a wealthy, hard-headed and loyal man, who worshipped his ruler Henry VII. His one and only desire from his first child was to improve his trading business and to be in his king's graces.

However, Daniel was not on the same page with his father. Being a merchant, trading fine clothing or being wealthy did not mean anything to him. He had only one desire and it was far from reality. Daniel was obsessed with the legend of the Holy Grail. He would always dream about hunting the Holy Grail and earn a fame all around the world for that.

Poor Richard was not able to persuade his son and was anxious about his reputation and wealth. People of Glentingaburg were talking about Daniel's situation as he shared his desires for Holy Grail and told legends of his hero King Arthur.

Day by day, Daniel was losing his interests in daily life and goals. He did not care if his father's caravan is stopped by bandits on the road; he did not care about the fairs that took place in the town for merchants to sell their goods; he was not fond of getting up early even though the morning was the most profitable time of the day; he had no interest about his father's political struggles since merchant class was seen as inferior to nobles. If it weren't for his mother, he would forget about feeding himself! He didn't know how many times he had read *Perceval*, the Story of the Grail by Chrétien de Troyes. He was saving his groats with the hope of travelling.

He would chase every legend and story about Holy Grail, therefore he had to travel around with his groats. He had no one to support him in his adventures, yet he had faith in himself. He had so many theories, he wanted to travel all the way to Italy. As he heard a tale connecting a somewhat painter named Leonardo Da Vinci to Holy Grail. He had written his theories into his journal with the desire that it would be found after his death if he could not realize his dream.

Yet, he had some concerns. He started to hear some rumours and whispers about modernization and getting out of the very heavy impact and burden of the Church. However, these were not enough to eloin him from his dream.

He had a grand plan. He was going to use his father's merchant business as a guise to travel Florence, where he would have a chance to meet this famous Leonardo and hopefully would be one step closer to his dream.

Unfortunately, after making all the arrangements due to the Great Slump, he could not realize his grand plan had to stay and help his father to regain his wealth.