

Quest for forgiveness

By zamone

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<http://www.fanart-central.net/stories/user/zamone/33602/Quest-for-forgiveness>

Chapter 1 - geostigma

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1 - geostigma

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["http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/loose.dtd">](http://www.w3.org/TR/REC-html40/loose.dtd)

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It is 2 years after the events of Final Fantasy 7 Advent Children

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Geostigma

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It is 2 years after the events of Final Fantasy VII Advent Children. Cloud Strife travels as a nomad delivery man, returning to 7th heaven occasionally to catch up with his friends. Though he knew he knew he always had his friends to rely on, and he lived life to the fullest in spite of the past, he had still not fully forgiven himself for the death of Aerith Gainsborough, the one he loved, four years ago. Sephiroth, the powerful soldier who was born of the experiments of the Shinra Corporation, was the one who dealt the blow. Sephiroth, the one of pure hate. He hated the Shinra Company because they experimented to make him, then for some reason, his hate spread until he began to hate everything. He hated the world so he tried to destroy it. In the end, Sephiroth lost the fight, but the victory was not without casualty. Aerith (or Aeris) became part of the lifestream, the river of life that circles the planet. Two years after, Kadaj and his gang came back as remnants of Sephiroth. Together with his brothers Yazoo and Loz, and with the help of Jenova's head, he managed to bring back Sephiroth. It took a lot of effort from Cloud, but Sephiroth was defeated and the effects of the geostigma, the lethal disease caused by

Jenova's cells infiltrating the body, were neutralised. Aeris still watched Cloud, and wanted him to forgive himself, but she left him to do that on his own.

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Riding through the forest near Ajit, Cloud is unaware he is being watched. Though he has a package bound for Midgar, he stops at the lake that the forgotten city overlooks. He sits by the water and looks out to the bizarre, luminous structure, thinking. This is the place where Aeris died. All he wanted at the time was to have her back. He looked to the water, at the spot where Aeris spent her last moments, and just stared. He couldn't let go of the feeling that he should have been there, that he should have done something to stop her death. Shattering the silence, a voice rang out, a voice cloud hoped never to hear again.

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"So, there is nothing you do not cherish?"

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Cloud looked up, startled, and immediately drew his blade, then realising who it was he almost dropped it out of shock. Sephiroth was standing there, on the other side of the water.

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"You-" Cloud could barely speak "You can't be here!"

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Sephiroth seemed to delight in Cloud's astonishment

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"Oh, but I am Cloud, and I'll keep coming until the human race no longer stands against me."

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Sephiroth jumped over the lake to the shoreline where Cloud stood and, with sword drawn, ran toward him. Cloud jumped back, blocking his follow-up attack with his own blade. He jumped over Sephiroth, planning to quickly attack from behind, and turned around with his blade in front of him to find Kadaj blocking his strike. He looked to either side and saw Yazoo to his left and Loz to his right. Now very outnumbered, Cloud knew he couldn't take this on his own. Yazoo fired his gunblade while Kadaj and Sephiroth ran toward him with their swords. Loz ran toward them, ducking from side to side, glowing slightly blue. Cloud swung his blade around, blocking Yazoo's bullets, and split it in two to block both Kadaj and Sephiroth's attacks. He jumped back, onto the trunk of a tree, then jumped again, flipping off it and landing on his bike. He revved up the engine and sped off toward Midgar.

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Kadaj, Yazoo and Loz were following on their bikes in an instant. Loz jumped from his bike to land on Cloud's but before he could deal a blow, Cloud turned and sliced his arm, throwing him back off the bike. Yazoo quickly dodged to catch Loz on the back of his own bike. Kadaj came up to the left of Cloud and swiped at him with his double blade. Though it hit his left arm, it seemed almost to go through it, but a black aura, like steam, came from the spot. Kadaj withdrew his sword and backed off. Cloud was left riding alone once again through the forest, but he wasn't about to stop and look back, so he kept on going out of the forest and toward Midgar.

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Near to the edge of the city he felt a very sharp, almost electric pain in his left arm. He pulled over, hoping beyond hope that it wasn't what he thought it was. He looked down at his arm, where his red ribbon blew in the wind. He saw with horror the black scarring down his arm where Kadaj's blade had struck. It wasn't possible, but it was there. It was geostigma.

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