



Erasmus+

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Sea and Music in Intercultural Lifelong Education S.M.I.L.E.

ERASMUS+ STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SCHOOL EDUCATION
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INTRODUCTION

This book represents a product of the Erasmus+ Partnership “Sea and Music in Intercultural Lifelong Education”, being the result of the work done by the joint teams of students and teachers from the partner schools.

We decided to demonstrate what the elements that can help nations come together and overcome any prejudices are. Elements directly connected to our school curricula and our countries' geographical position. These elements are Music and Sea. Music has always been viewed as a powerful tool in breaking barriers and promoting cross-cultural appreciation. There is a long and strong history of all our countries using Music as a vehicle to promote cultural understanding. Music is the universal language with an appeal that transcends language, cultural or religious boundaries. Engaging in musical activities with people of another culture or country can increase cultural understanding and tolerance.

In addition, Sea unites people and countries across the globe. The most important civilizations were born near water. The river and sea routes facilitate transportation, trade, exchanging of ideas, habits, myths, history and communication among people, nations and cultures.

One of the main activities of our project was to search myths and legends about Sea and Music. We found a lot of them, many of which are well known even nowadays, all over the world. We covered them in various ways: as dance and music performances, as theatrical plays and comics as well.

Myths, first orally and then in written form, transmitted beliefs, symbols and cultural values from generation to generation. As a consequence, nowadays every culture has its own legends which get through and haunt its people's soul.

This world of legends and myths was nothing more than an alternative culture to written culture, the latter having long been inaccessible to rural and rustic world of Europe in the past. In this way, the cultural identity of any nation is reflected in the legends and myths that have accompanied and formed at the same time with that particular nation.

The future must be based on legends which, even though they come from ancient times, through the messages and teachings they convey, are still so present today, because, as the great storyteller Andersen said, “the good and the beautiful cannot be forgotten, they live through legends and songs”.

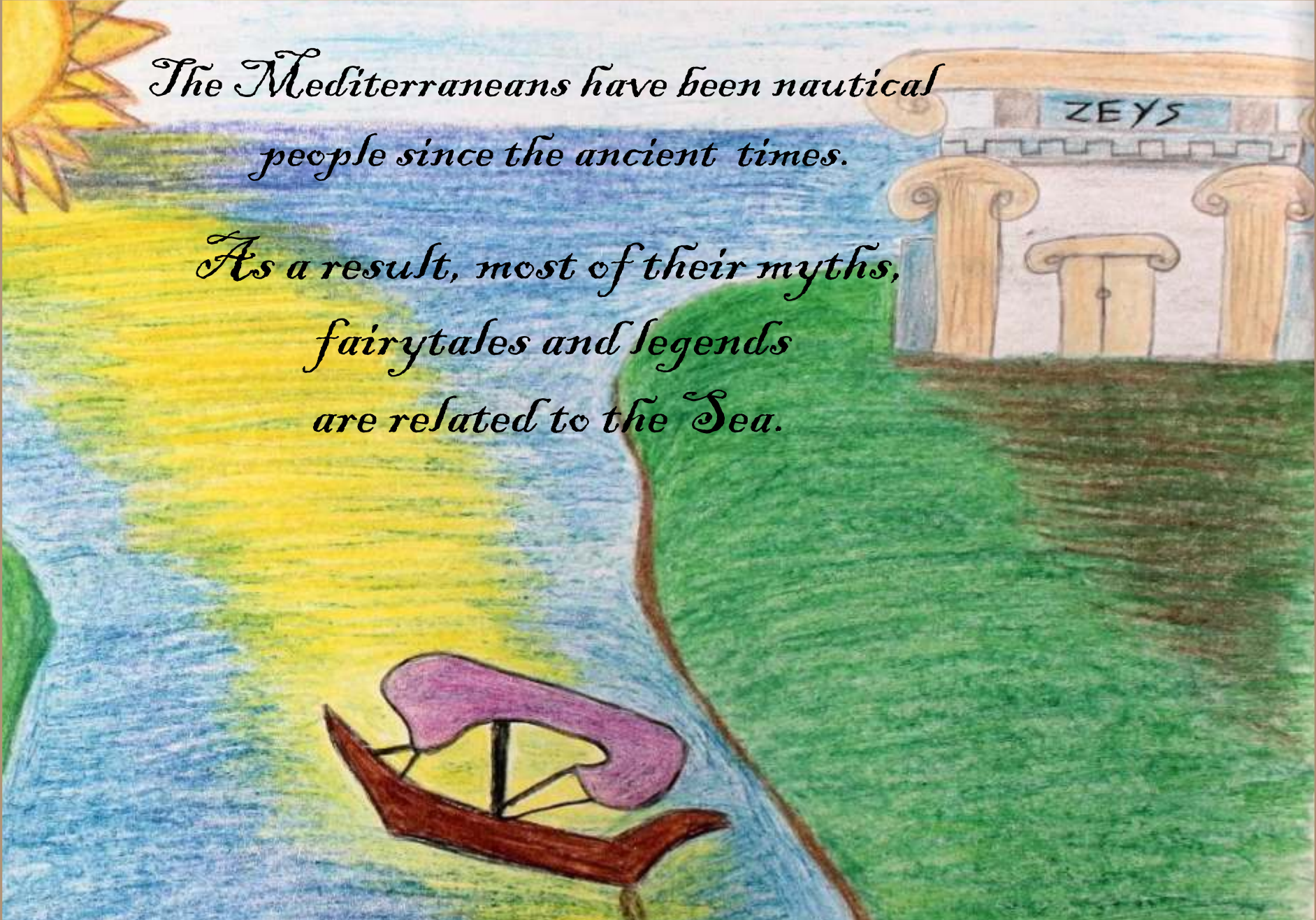
Our project indirectly succeeds in helping the people involved to be more aware of their own legends and values, of their own identity and also to perceive the “other” correctly, the other nations involved, in discovering them in a unique, special way.

In conclusion, legends and therefore the present outcome of our project, this book – a collection of legends from the partner countries, in the form of comics- become true “gates” to a better knowledge and understanding of the world, of the peoples around us.

This book contains myths and legends which were created in various ways, reflecting the inspiration of each team.

Firstly, the students made a research in order to find myths related to our topics. After, they divided each story to a number of separate frames and they wrote the phrases to put into the bubbles of each frame. Then, they drew the frames, according to their style, and finally they used ICT applications to imprint, edit and share their comics.

*The editors,
Panagiota Frantzi, Maria Birba.*



*The Mediterraneans have been nautical
people since the ancient times.*

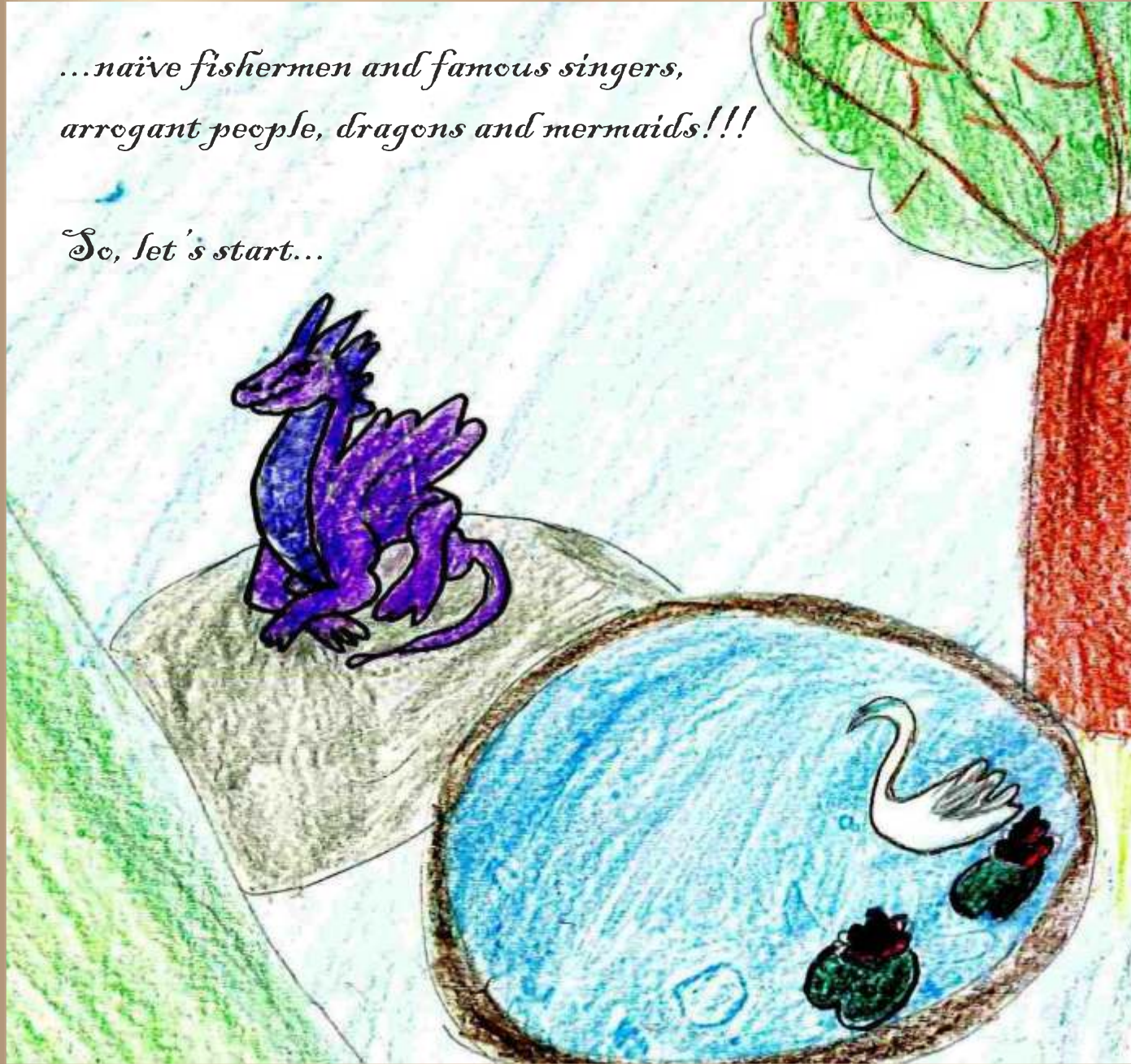
*As a result, most of their myths,
fairytales and legends
are related to the Sea.*

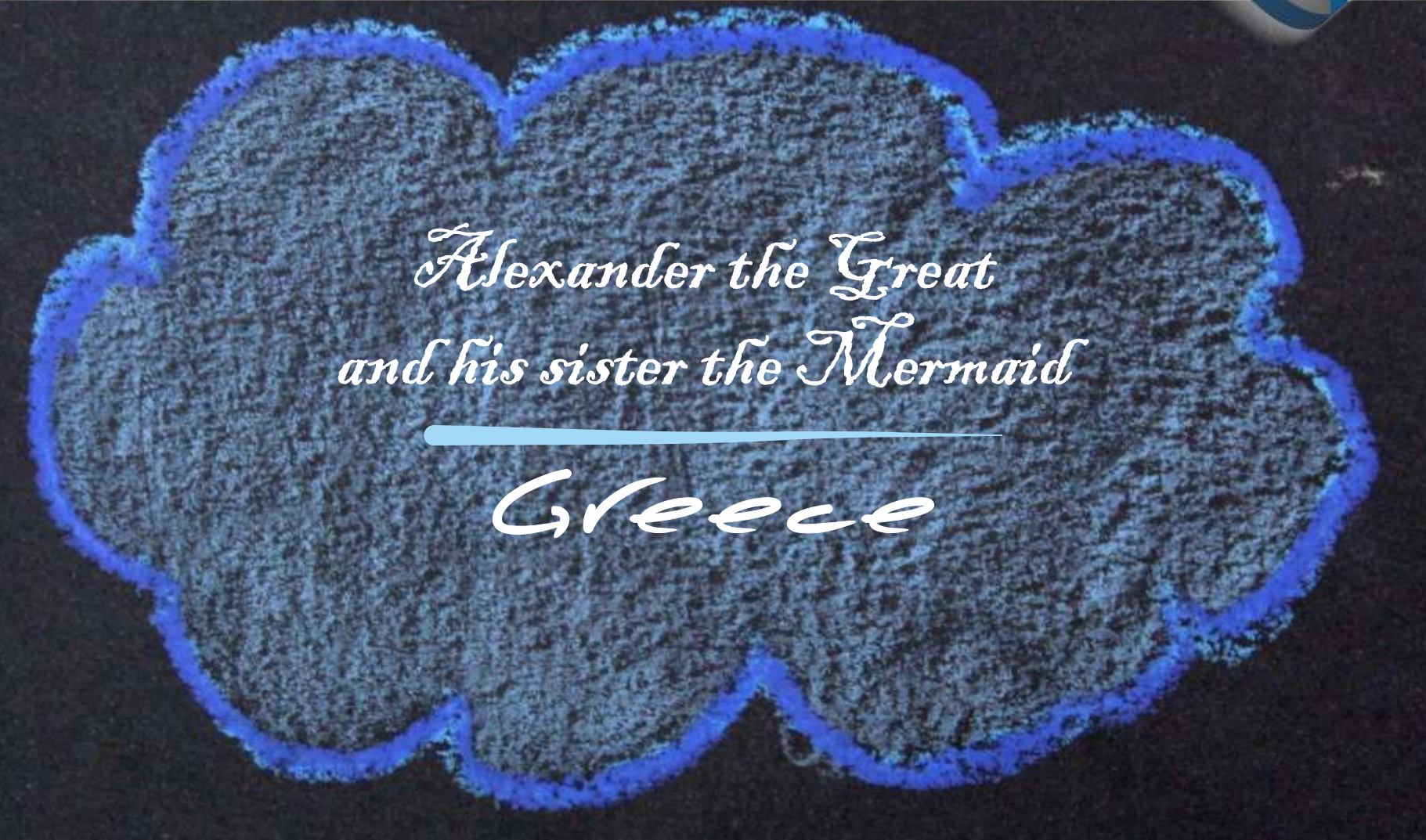
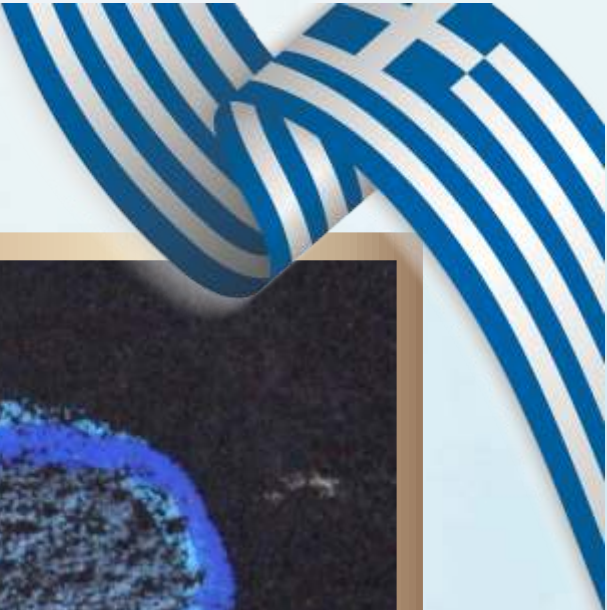


*Today we'll present you
some of these fables!!
We'll talk about
heroes and gods. . . .*

*...naïve fishermen and famous singers,
arrogant people, dragons and mermaids!!!*

So, let's start...

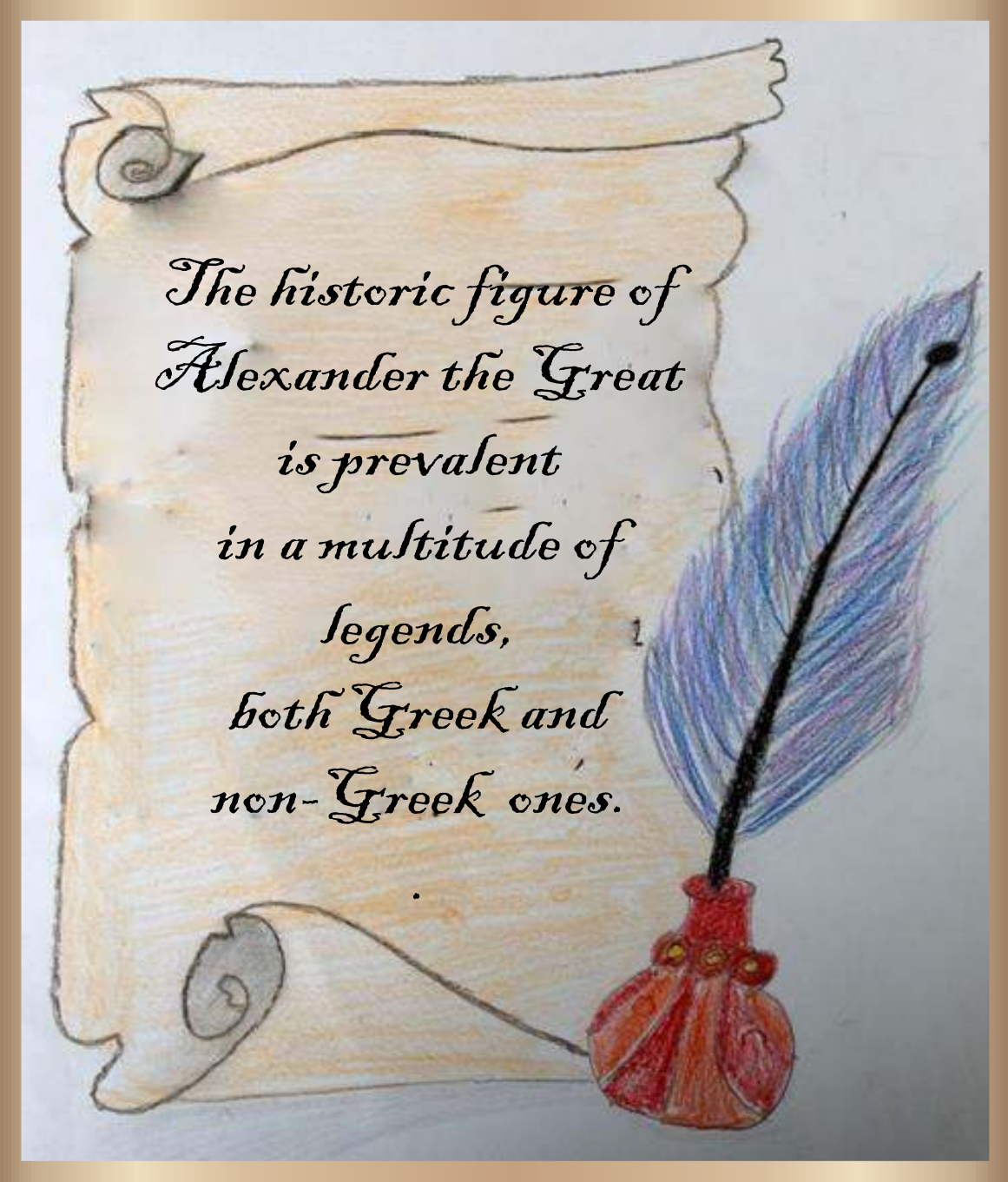




*Alexander the Great
and his sister the Mermaid*

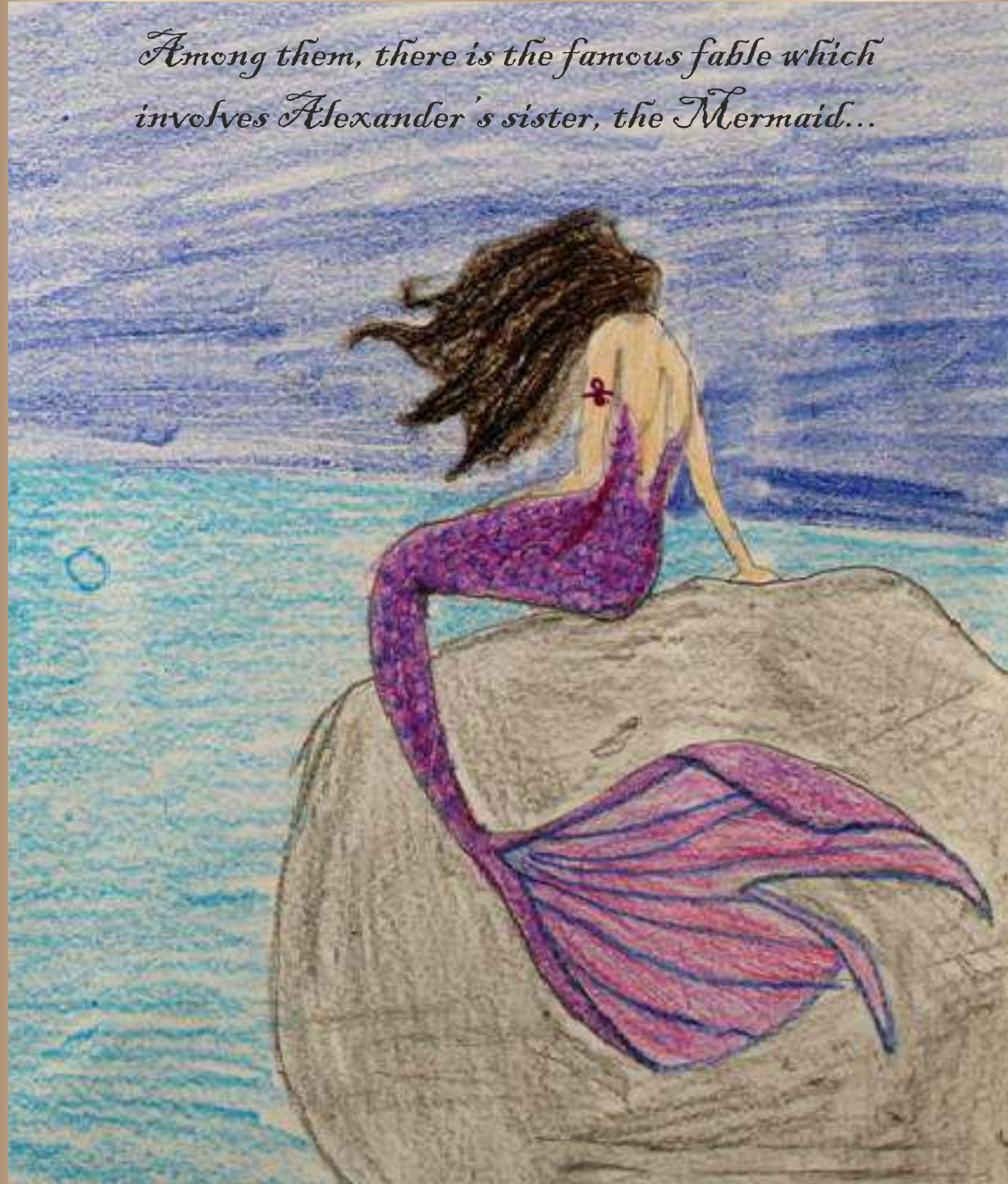
Greece



A hand-drawn illustration of a scroll with text and a quill pen. The scroll is yellowish with a scalloped edge and a rolled-up top-left corner. The text is written in a black, cursive font. To the right of the scroll is a quill pen with a blue and purple feather and a red, bulbous holder. The entire illustration is set against a light blue background.

*The historic figure of
Alexander the Great
is prevalent
in a multitude of
legends,
both Greek and
non-Greek ones.*

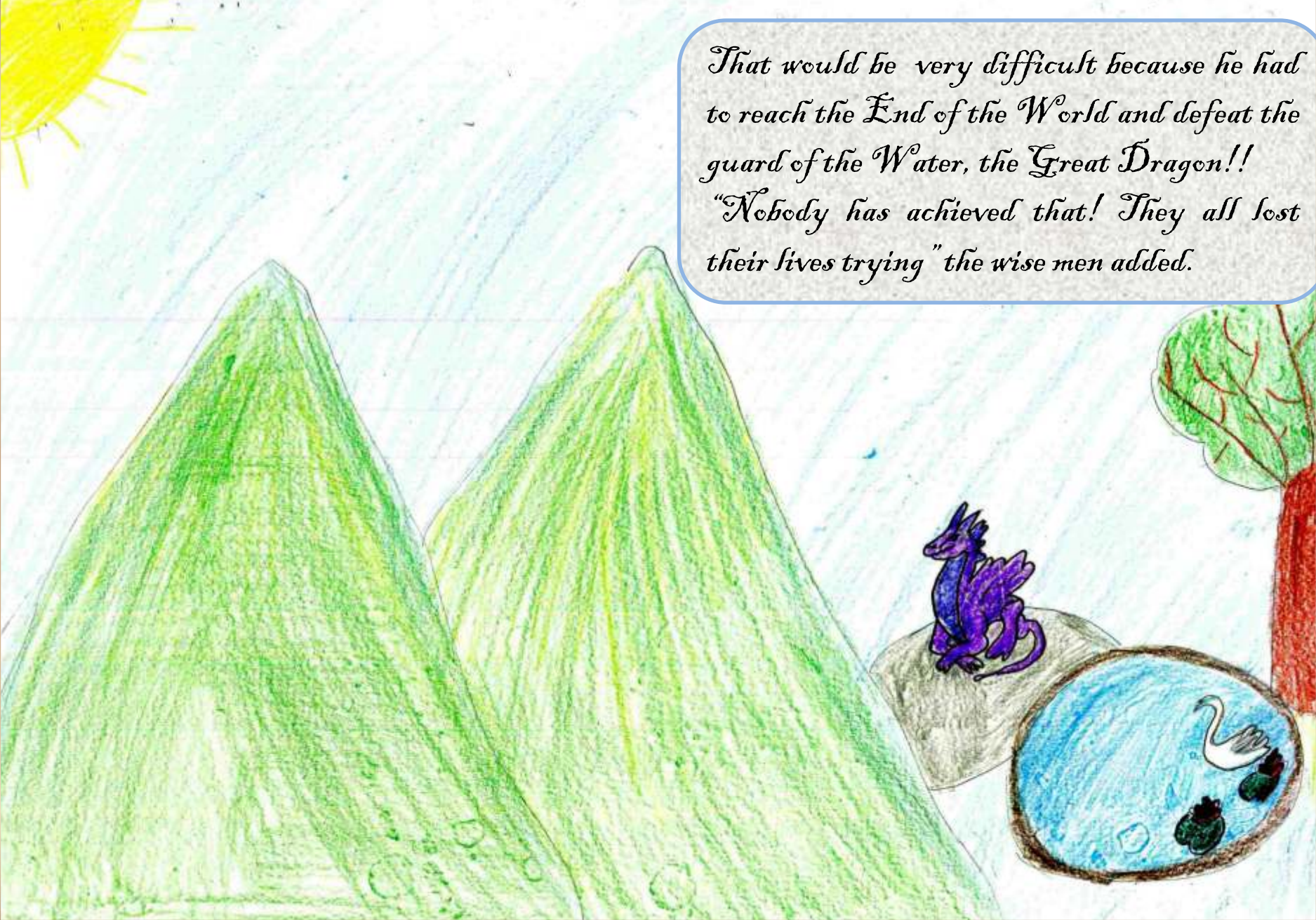
*Among them, there is the famous fable which
involves Alexander's sister, the Mermaid...*





After Alexander had created his huge empire, he started seeking how he could gain eternal youth and immortality. Some old, wise men advised him that he had to drink the Immortal Water to succeed that.





That would be very difficult because he had to reach the End of the World and defeat the guard of the Water, the Great Dragon!!

"Nobody has achieved that! They all lost their lives trying" the wise men added.

*Alexander didn't hesitate at all !!
He took his huge sword and set off
to the End of the World!!
His superb horse Bucephalus
run faster than lightning!!*



After an epic battle, Alexander killed the dragon!! Then, he gave water to his horse, filled his flask with the Immortal Water, and started his journey back!!



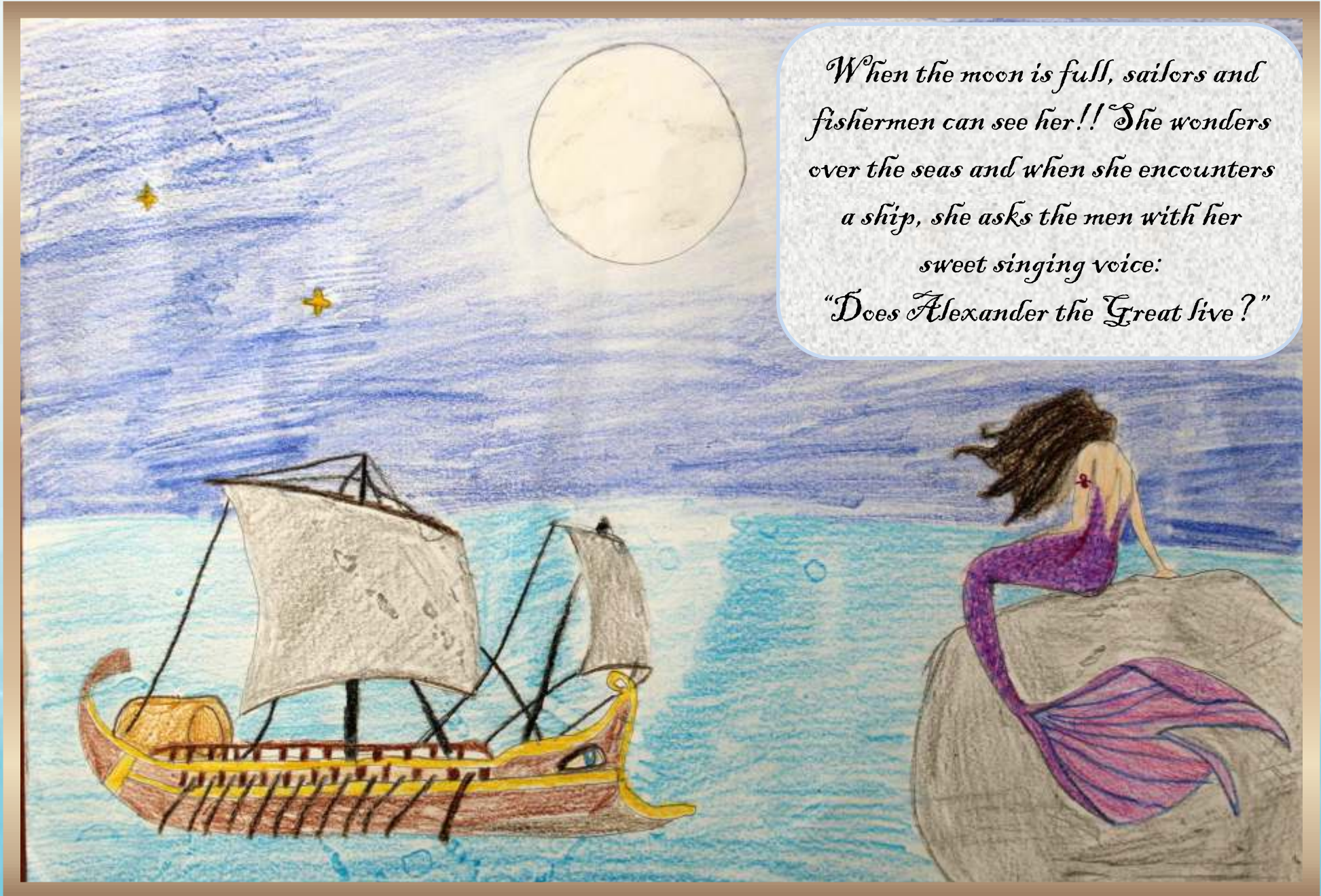
On his arrival at the palace, Alexander forgot to tell his sister about the contents of the flask. . . .

One day, after she had cleaned and polished the flask, she poured the Immortal Water onto some plants!!!

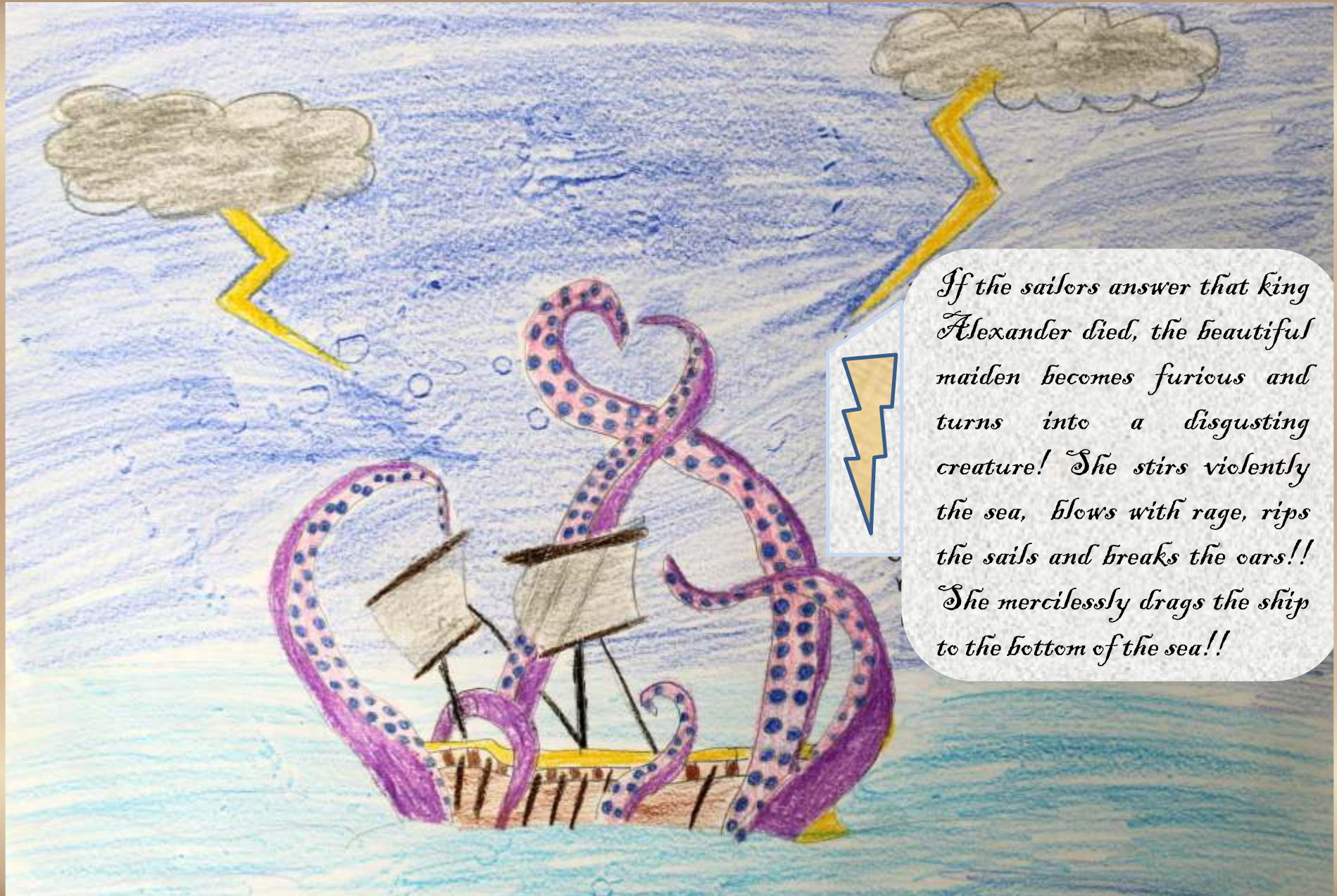


When her outraged brother told her what the water was for, she, grief-stricken and desperate, turned into a creature with the upper body of a woman and the tail of a fish!!! Since then she has been living in the sea and she is called "the Mermaid".



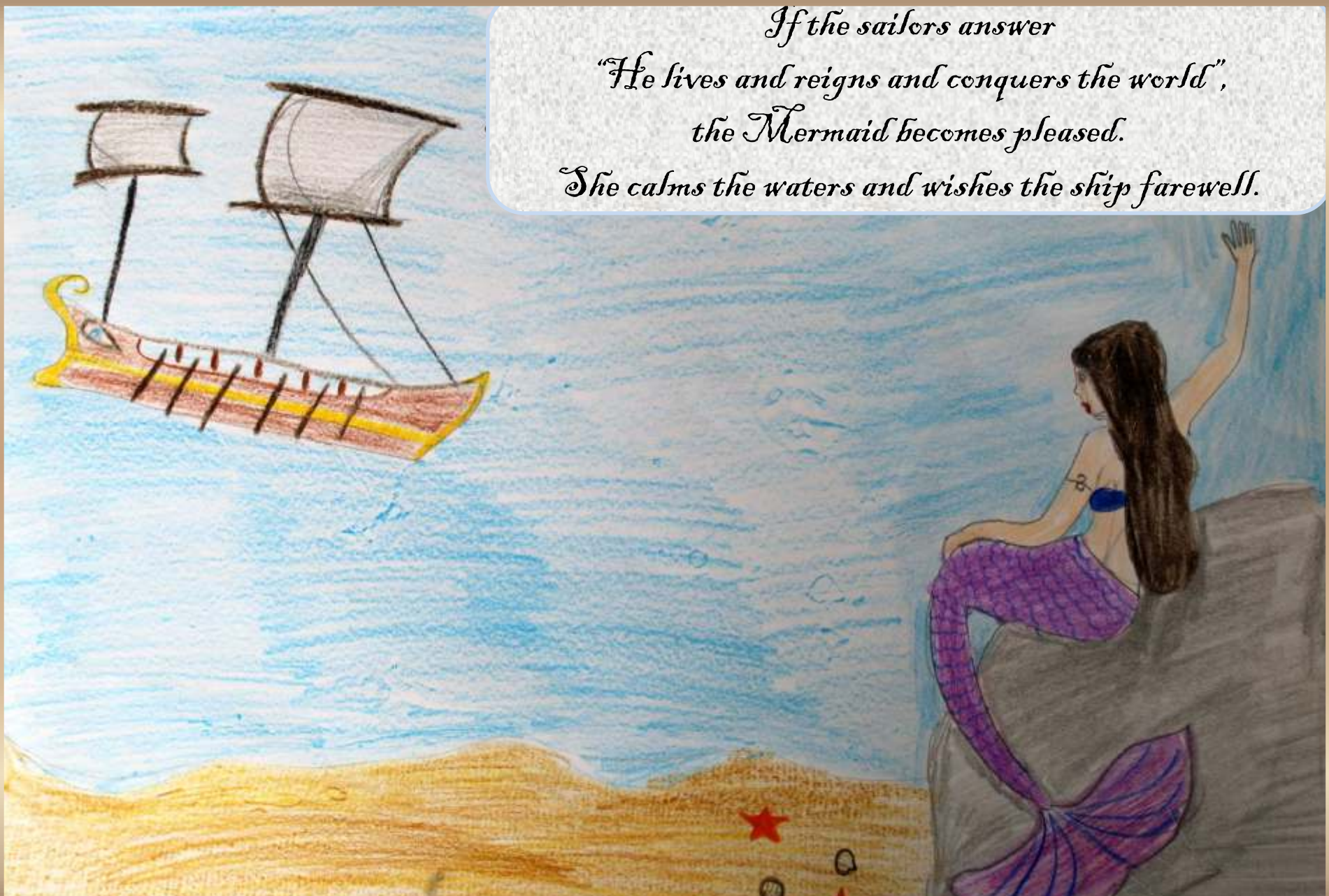


*When the moon is full, sailors and fishermen can see her!! She wonders over the seas and when she encounters a ship, she asks the men with her sweet singing voice:
"Does Alexander the Great live?"*



If the sailors answer that king Alexander died, the beautiful maiden becomes furious and turns into a disgusting creature! She stirs violently the sea, blows with rage, rips the sails and breaks the oars!! She mercilessly drags the ship to the bottom of the sea!!

*If the sailors answer
"He lives and reigns and conquers the world",
the Mermaid becomes pleased.
She calms the waters and wishes the ship farewell.*



The sailors hear her singing:

"King Alexander lives!

My brother lives!

*He lives and reigns and
conquers the world!"*





The Labours of Hercules

Spain



CAPTURA DEL JABALI





llevar manzanas

----- AL JARDÍN -----

de las

hesperides











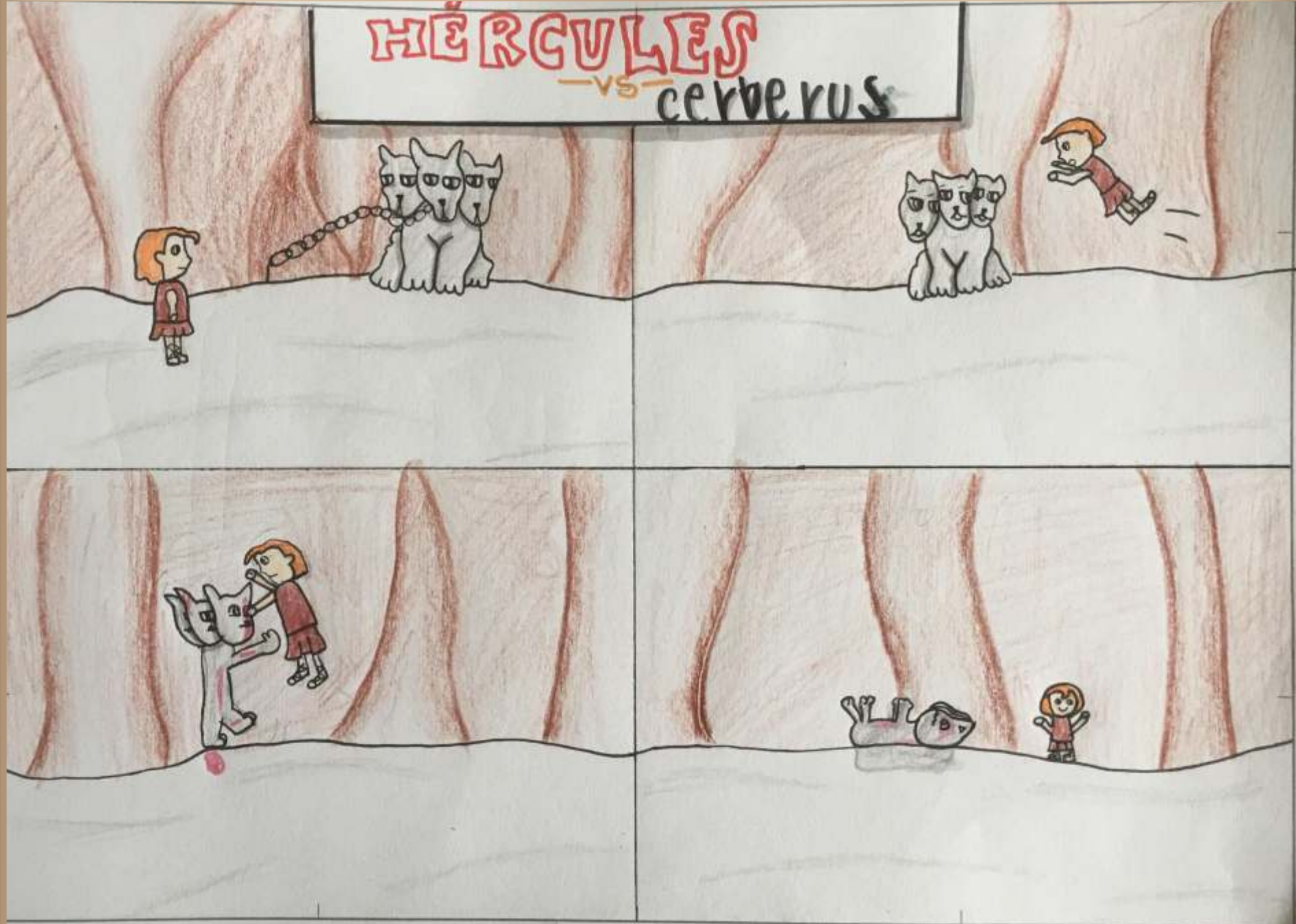




HÉRCULES

-vs-

cerberus







Curso

Nombre





Colapesce Legend

Italy

The Colapesce legend is a widespread legend in southern Italy, handed down in many variations, whose origins date back to the 12th century. In its best known version, the Palermo one, it is about of a certain Nicola (Cola di Messina), son of a fisherman, nicknamed Colapesce for his ability to move in the sea; returning from his numerous dives in the sea he stopped to tell the wonders he saw and, sometimes, brought back treasures. Cola (Nicola) lived near Capo Peloro in Messina and spent all his entire days more at sea than on land. The sea was his whole life, his passion, and exploring the silent and immense depths made him freer. This passion was not well seen by his mother, because many times the boy had the habit of throwing his catch back to the sea, so as one day she cursed him by saying this phrase: "May you become like a fish!". Over time, his skin became more and more scaly, his hands and feet like fins.

Its fame spread throughout Sicily, reaching the court of King Roger (although many versions of the legend report the Emperor Frederick II of Swabia). The King decided to put him to the test: the king and his court therefore went offshore aboard a boat and threw a cup into the water which was immediately recovered by Colapesce. The king then threw his crown in a deeper place and Colapesce succeeded again in the enterprise. The third time the king tested Cola by throwing a ring in an even deeper place. While Colapesce was looking for it, he found out that Sicily rested on...



three columns: two were intact while the third was consumed by a fire that existed between Catania and Messina. Cosapesce, returning to the surface, told King Roger what he saw, but the king did not believe him and forced him to bring that fire back from the sea. Courageously, Cosapesce plunged into the sea. Everyone waited for his return but only the burnt piece of wood surfaced. Cosapesce stayed inside the sea in the middle of that fire to support that column, so that his beloved land does not collapse.





Adonis and Aphrodite

Cyprus





*Back then there were no
nuclear weapons, no climate
change
and no Covid-19 to worry
about!*

*The twelve Olympian Gods
who ruled the world spent
their time creatively, mostly
playing tricks on mortals.
It was quite common to turn
poor mortals into plants or
animals,*

*as was the case with
Myrrha, Adonis mother.
Pregnant, but in the shape
of a Myrrh tree, she
simply
cracked open to give birth to
baby Adonis!*



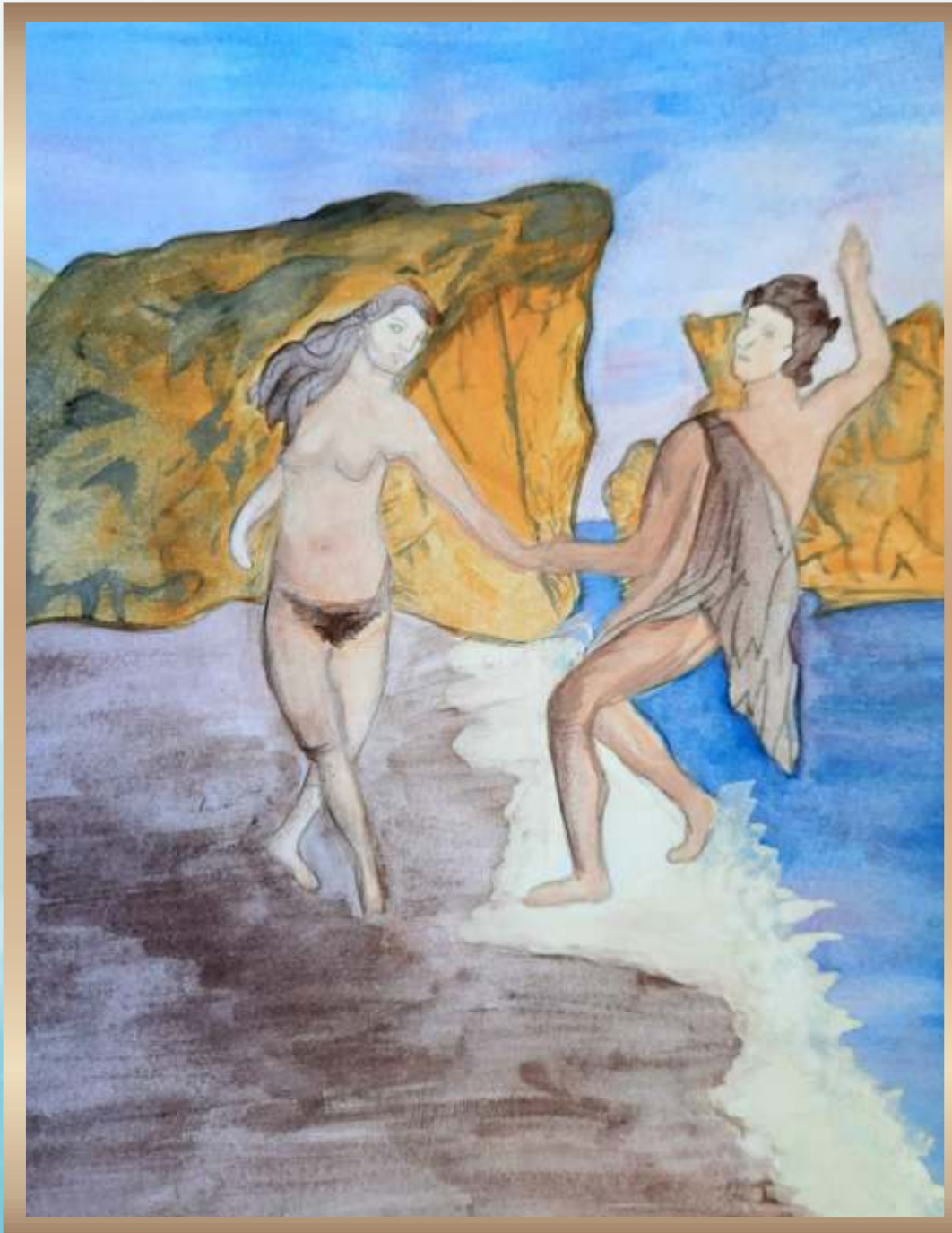
As fate has it, Aphrodite just happened to walk by the myrrh tree with her son Eros at the time. As Eros was busy playing his harp, she stole the handsome baby to keep for herself. As she couldn't bring him home to Olympus, she gave him to Persephone in the Underworld for ... safekeeping! Years passed, and Adonis grew into a handsome babe, a sex symbol of his time. And when the time came for Persephone to give Adonis back to Aphrodite, she simply wouldn't ... or couldn't!



Aphrodite screamed and Persephone yelled, but neither budged. The matter was brought to Zeus for arbitration who divided the year into three parts and decreed that Adonis would spend one third of the year with Persephone, one with Aphrodite, and the rest by himself. And that's how a great love affair was born. Soon after Adonis added his own portion to Aphrodite's, and for eight months per year they had each other. The rest of the time they followed each other on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



During the eight months the two lovers were together, the sun shone brightly and the soil was kind to the people; flowers bloomed and fruits ripened. The forest of Akamas was their love nest. Adonis would go hunting while Aphrodite would write love lyrics to the music that Eros played with his harp. In vain Eros asked the Gods for drums; Loud music would scare birds and wild boars off the forest, Artemis, the goddess of hunting, argued while turning his request down.



*Adonis and Aphrodite
were all but
inseparable. Aphrodite
was so smitten with this
handsome mortal that she
started neglecting her
divine duties at
Olympus, claiming that
she had no wife to even
attend Gods' meetings
through Teams or Zoom.
She became Adonis'
constant companion,
roaming through the woods
and having picnics by the
sea. She took him to the
place she was born out of
the foam of the sea, where
the two lovers would hold
hands and dance to the
sound of the waves.*



*One day while Adonis was hunting a wild bear sent by Aris,
who was jealous of their love, fatally wounded him*



Back in those times all great loves ended comically (usually one of the lovers was turned into a plant or an animal).

Adonis and Aphrodite's love ended tragically.

Adonis was gored by a wild boar during a hunting trip and bled to death.

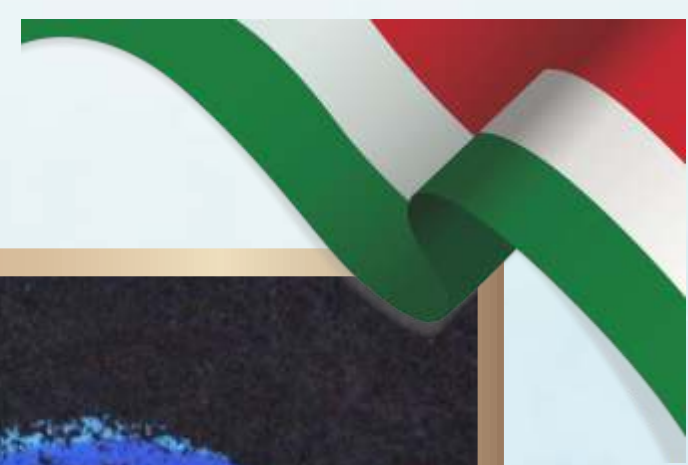
Was it a real boar acting on its own, a boar sent by Artemis to kick them out of her forests, or ex-lover Ares transformed into a boar?

We will never know; Olympus refuses to release the facts claiming national security issues!

Aphrodite was of course beyond herself. She held Adonis in her arms and wept like a whale.

As she wept, his blood mingled with her tears and were turned into anemones!

Anemones flowers grew wherever these tear-blood drops fell.



The Sirens

Italy



Sirens, in Greek mythology, are creatures half birds and half women who lured sailors to destruction by the sweetness of their song.

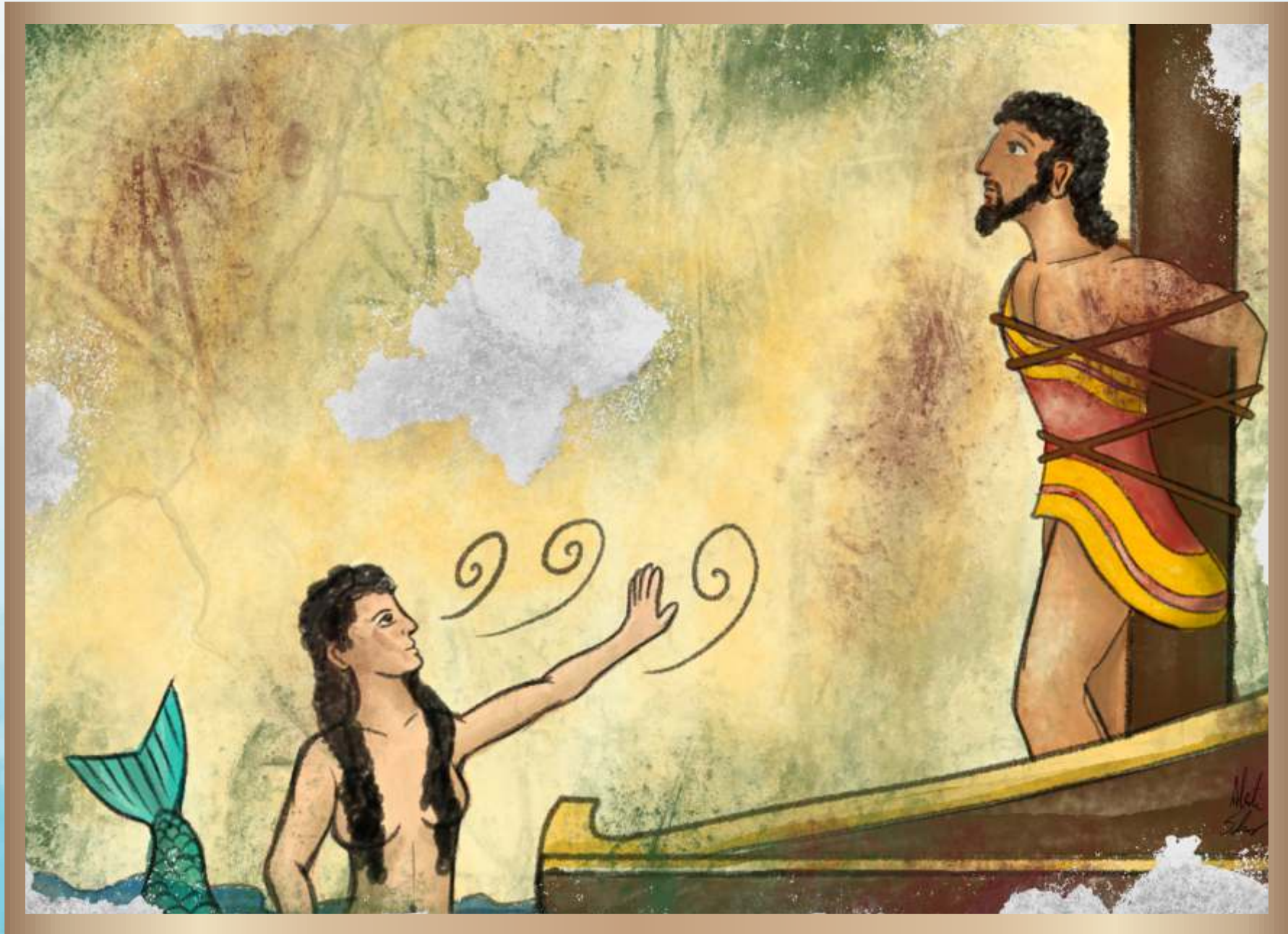
They were fated to die if anyone should survive their attractive singing.

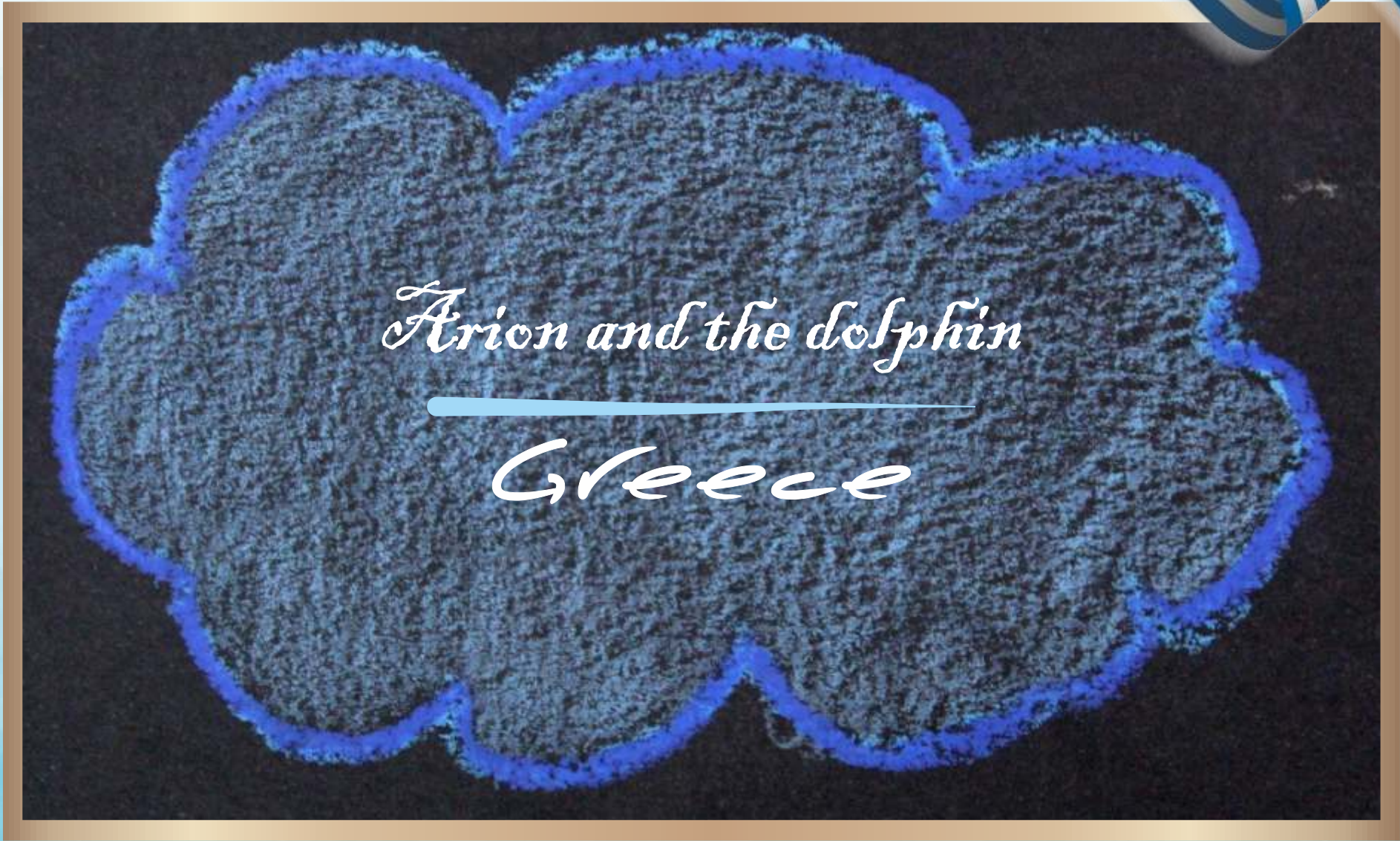
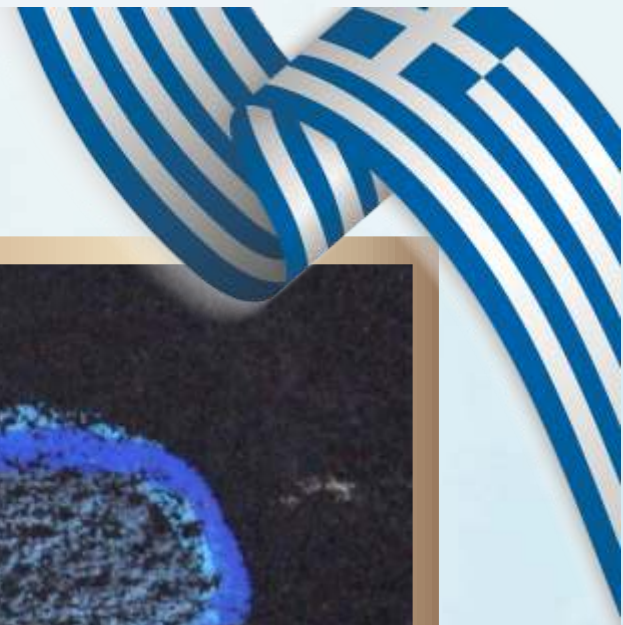


According to Homer, there were two Sirens on a small island in the Western Mediterranean sea between Aeae (possibly Circeo promontory, Ponza or Ustica) and the rocks of Scylla (in the Strait of Messina, between Sicily and Italy). Later authors talk about three Sirens which were located on the west coast of Italy, near Naples. They were said to be either the daughters of the sea god Phorcys or of the river god Achelous and one of the Muses.



*In Homer's *Odyssey*, the Greek hero Odysseus, advised by the sorceress Circe, escaped the danger of their song by stopping the ears of his crew with wax, so that they were deaf to the Sirens. Odysseus himself wanted to hear their beautiful song but had himself tied to the mast so that he would not be able to steer the ship off his course and crash against the Sirens' rocks. When Odysseus passed them by unhurt, the Sirens threw themselves into the sea and drowned.*

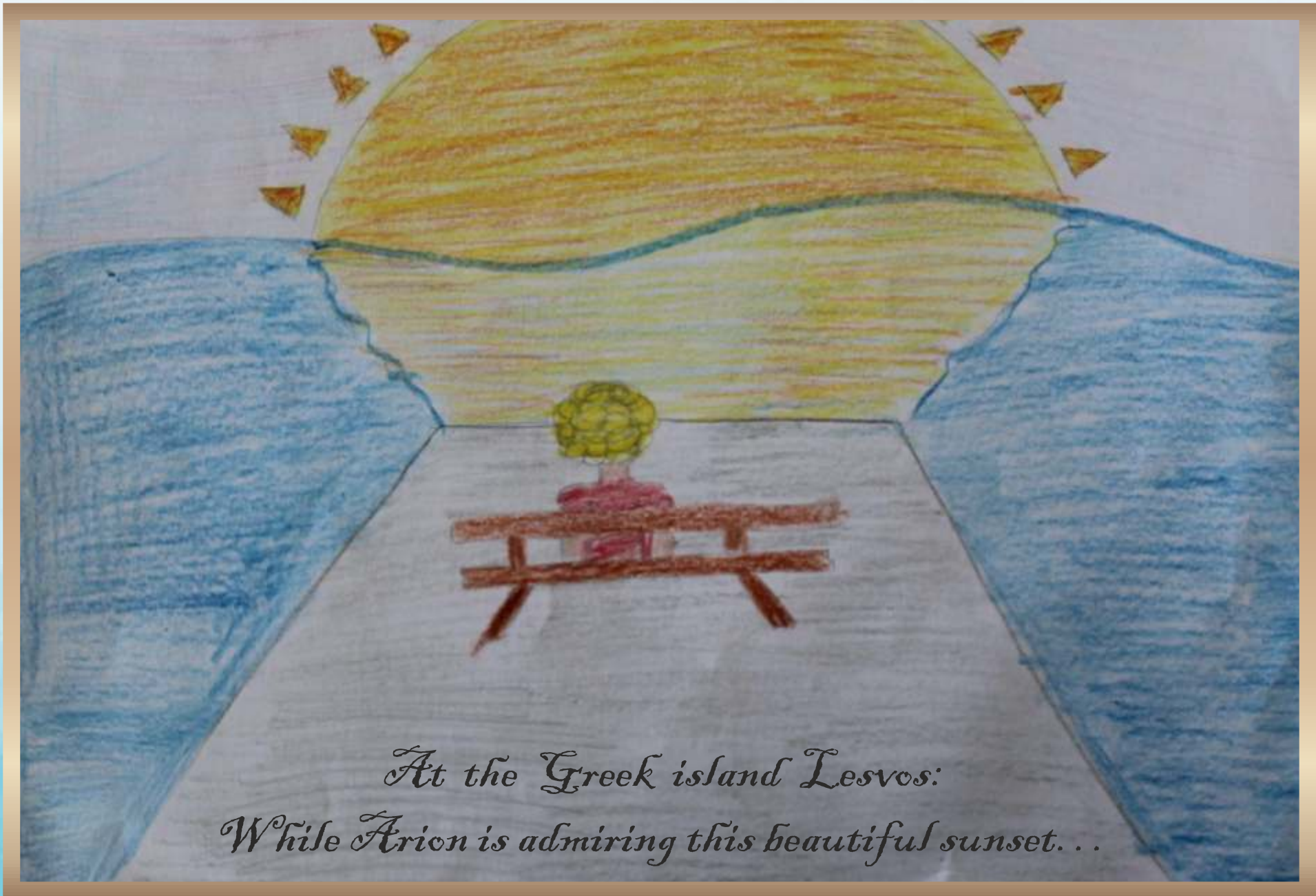




Arion and the dolphin

Greece



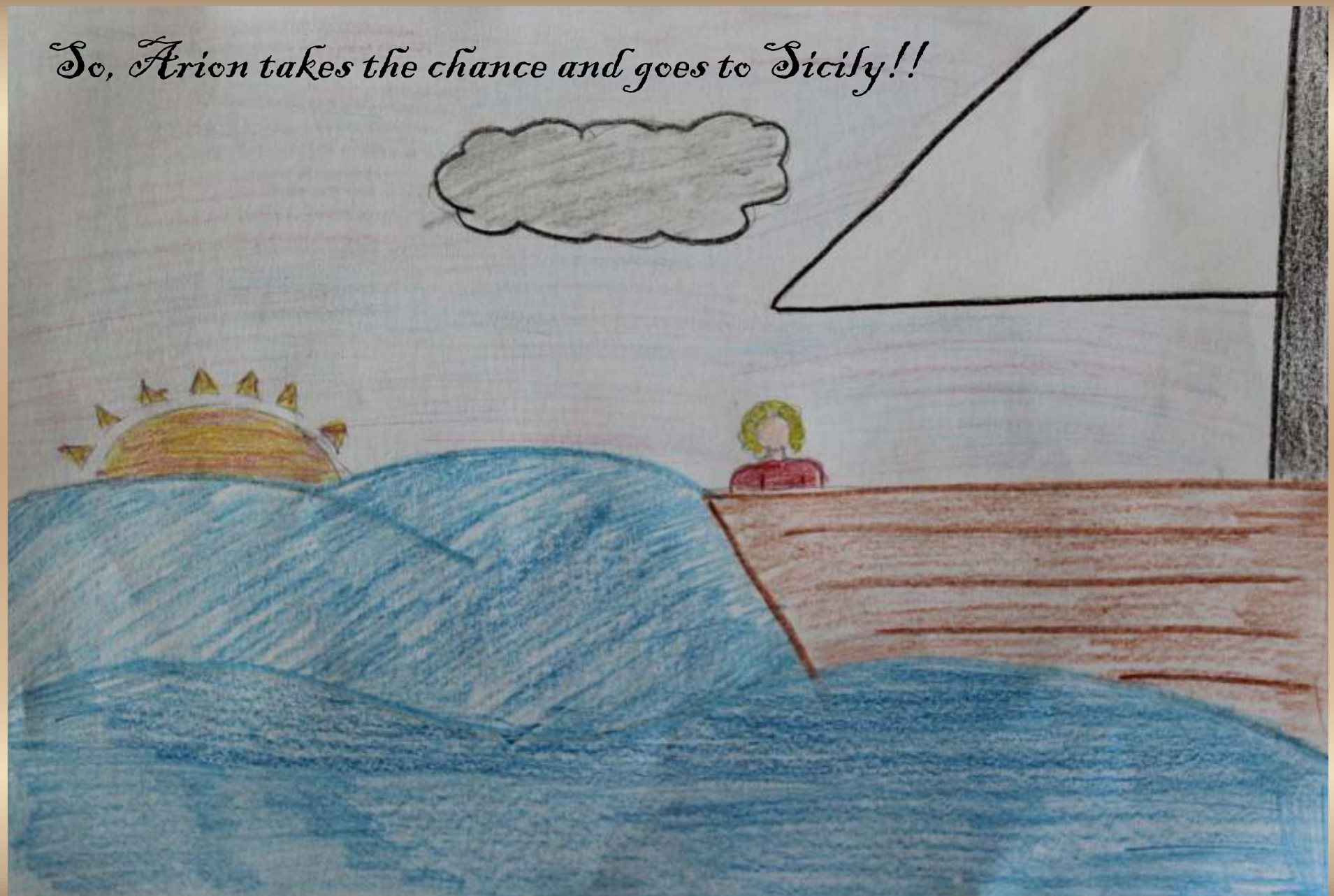


*At the Greek island Lesbos:
While Arion is admiring this beautiful sunset. . .*

*... a friend of his comes to inform him about
the famous Sicilian competition for poets and musicians,
and makes sure that he will participate. . .*



So, Arion takes the chance and goes to Sicily!!



Finally, he reaches his destination. . .





*The big day has come!
Arion is ready to
perform his songs
in front of thousands
of people who end up
admiring him!!*



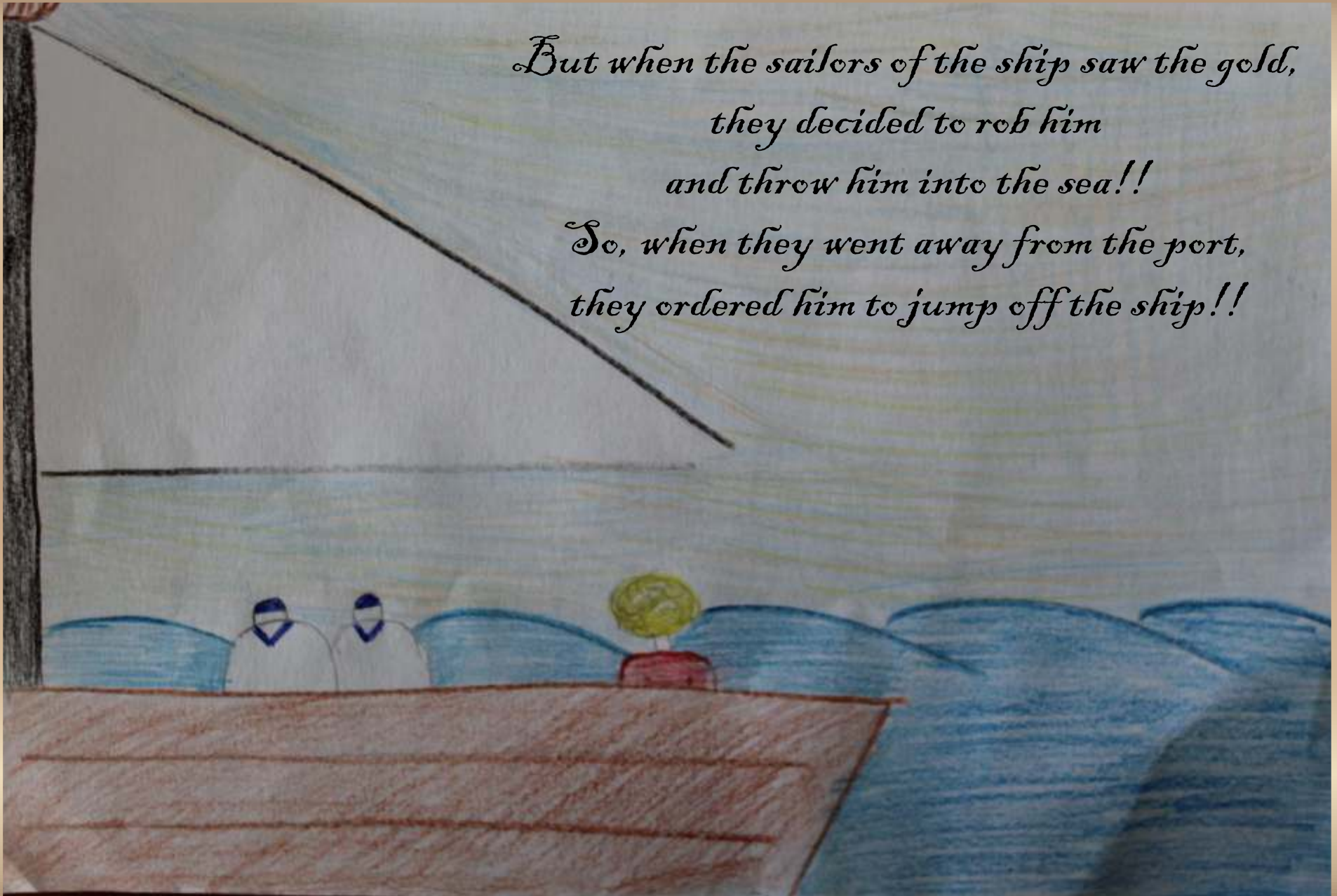
*These songs earned the
golden prize as
everybody was enchanted
by them.
Arion sang about spring
and love and heroism.*

*When it's time for Arion to leave,
everybody goes to say goodbye to him and
they provide him with a ship and a lot of gold!!*

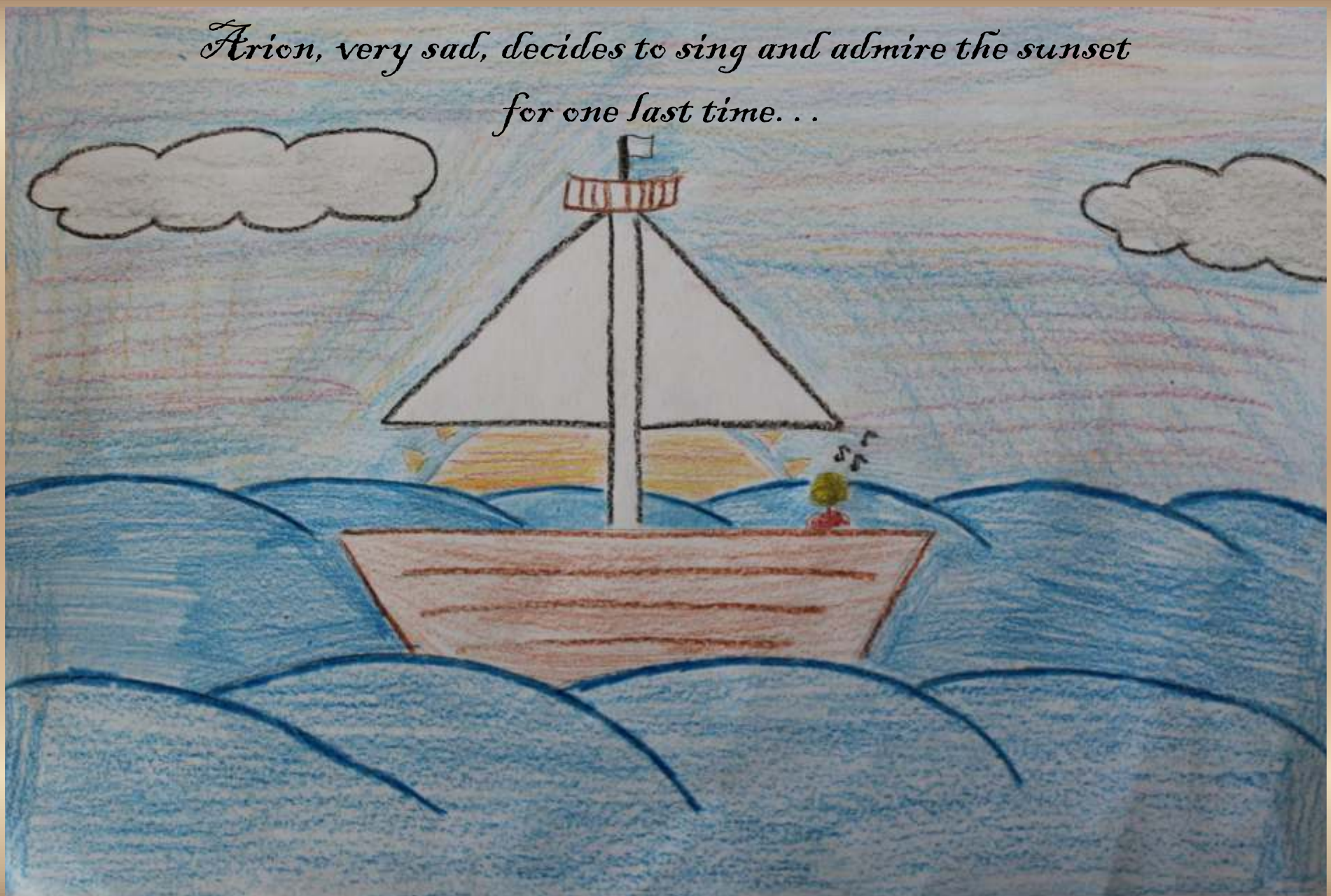


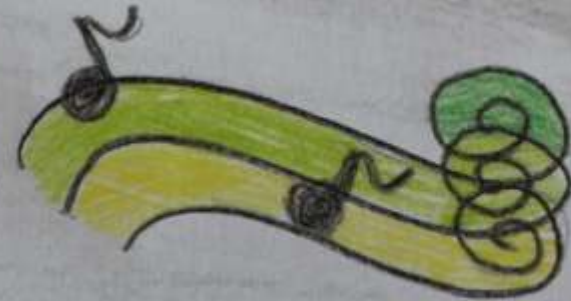
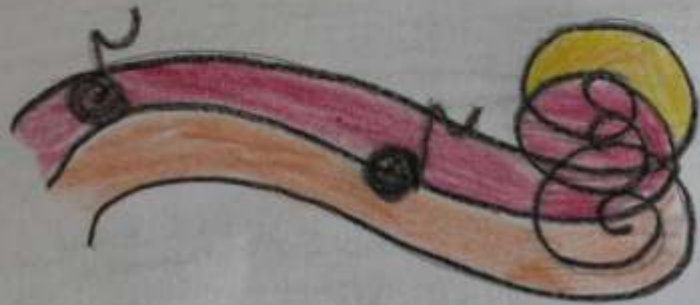
*But when the sailors of the ship saw the gold,
they decided to rob him
and throw him into the sea!!*

*So, when they went away from the port,
they ordered him to jump off the ship!!*



*Arion, very sad, decides to sing and admire the sunset
for one last time. . .*





*His song was the best one he had ever sung.
The air filled with his sweet melody
and every part of the ship started shaking by this melody.*

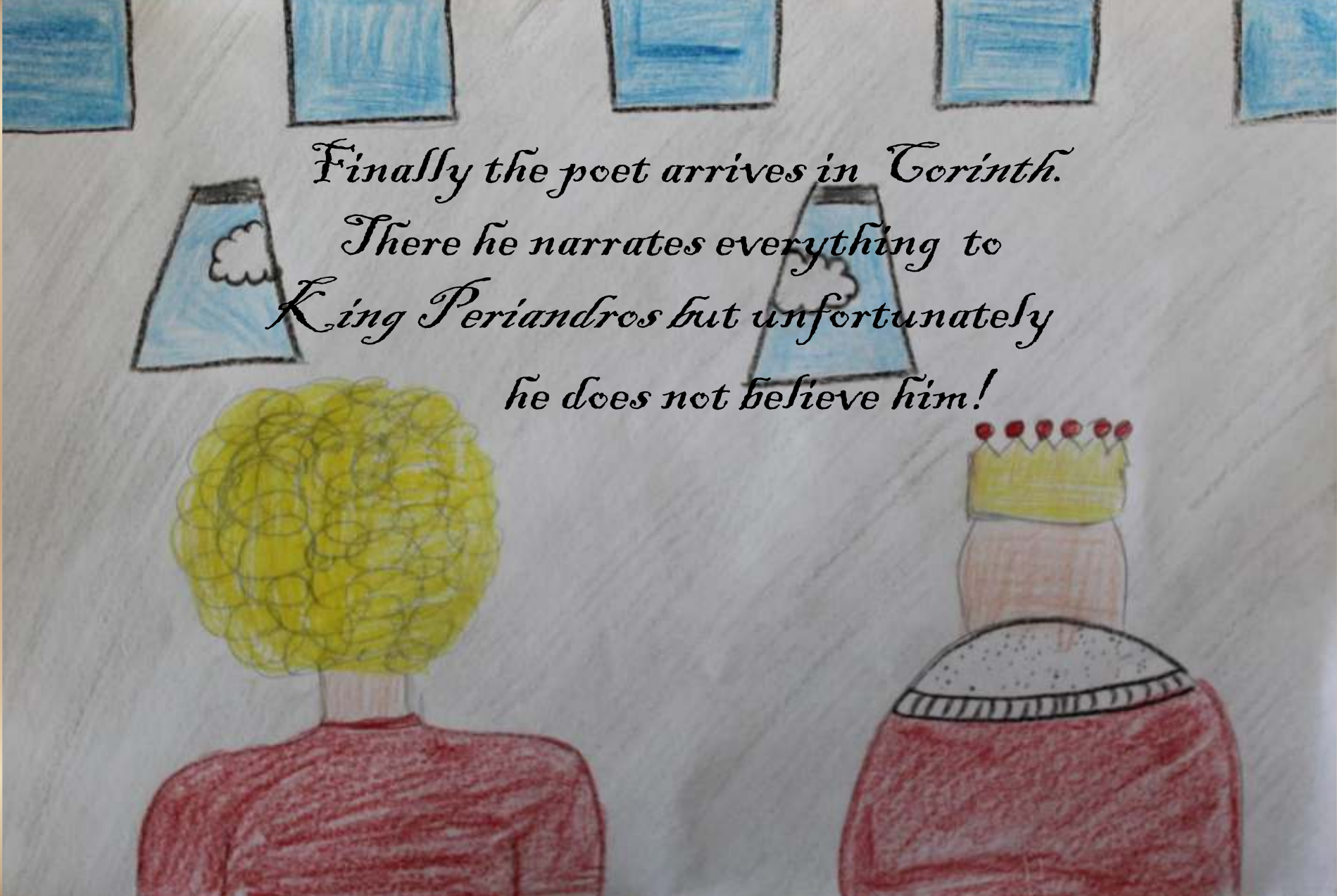
Then he threw himself into the sea to meet his fate...




*... but as he saw the deep blue of the sea surrounding him,
he felt something pushing him onto the surface!!*



*It was that time that he realized that he was sitting
upon the back of a huge dolphin, Apollo's sacred animal!!
This dolphin brought him ashore!!!*



*Finally the poet arrives in Corinth.
There he narrates everything to
King Periandros but unfortunately
he does not believe him!*



In the end, the sailors arrive, too, in Corinth,

they go to the king

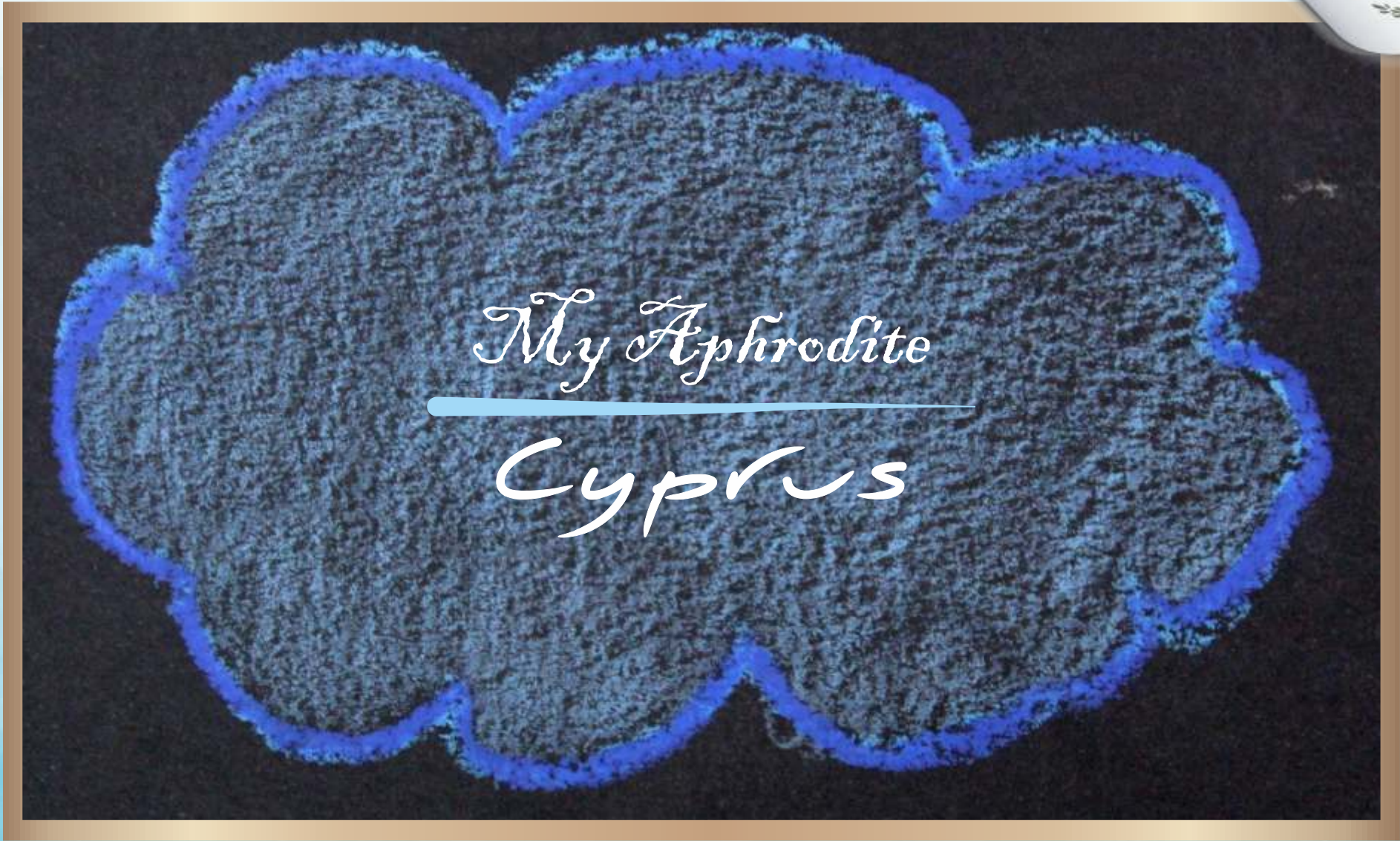
and tell him that Arion is safe in Sicily!!

*Thus, the king realizes that Arion was telling the truth
and immediately orders the sailors' execution.*



THE END





My Aphrodite

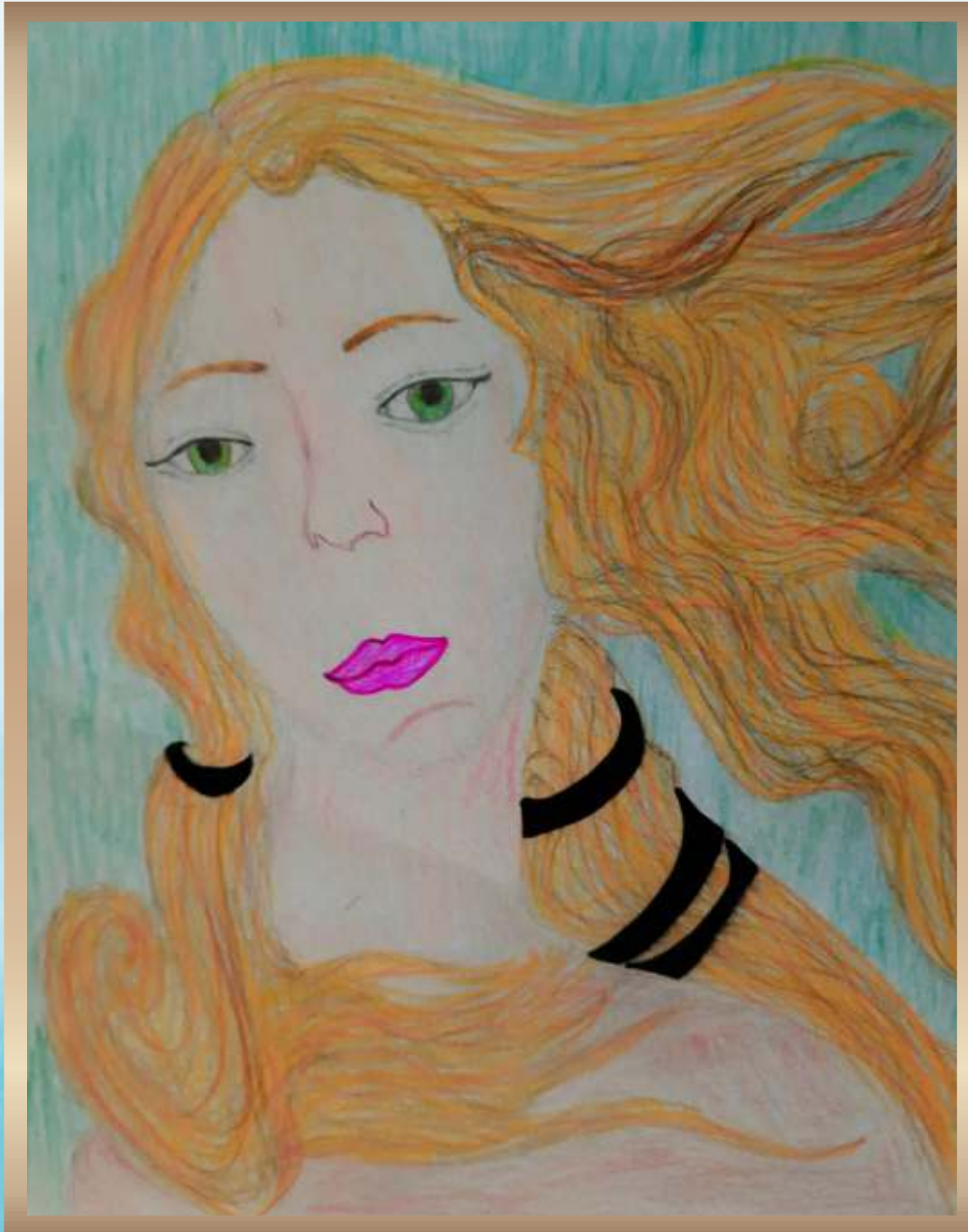
◊ Who doesn't know Mighty Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty?

Back in the times when the twelve Olympian Gods ruled the world, she commanded mortals' hearts; Together with her son Eros, they drove mortals and Gods alike, crazy.

She is responsible of all kinds of "crimes and misdemeanours" done in the name of love!



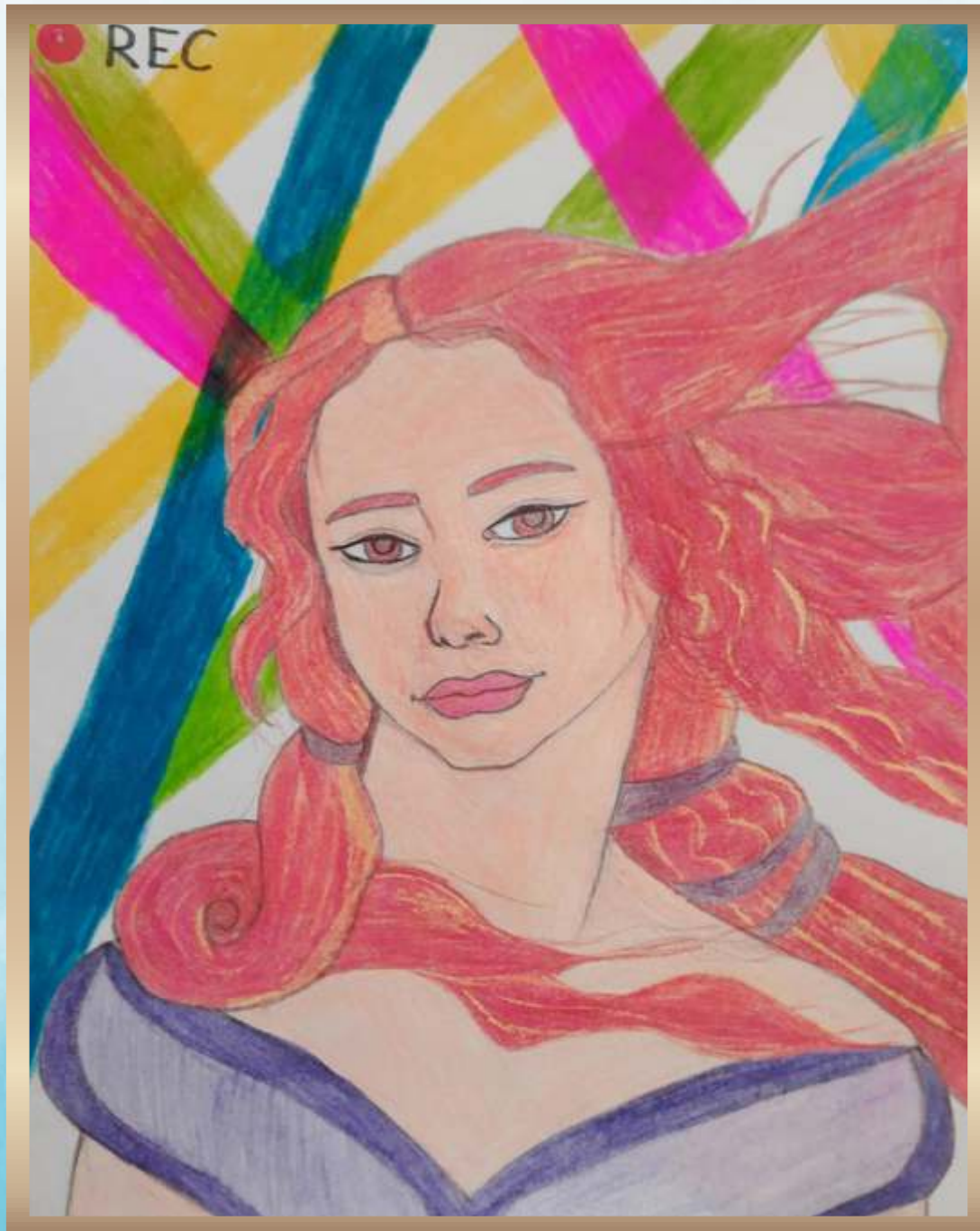
*She emerged
from the foam of
the
Mediterranean
sea near
the coast of
Paphos, and
since then she has
not ceased to
spread chaos,
creative chaos
that is...*



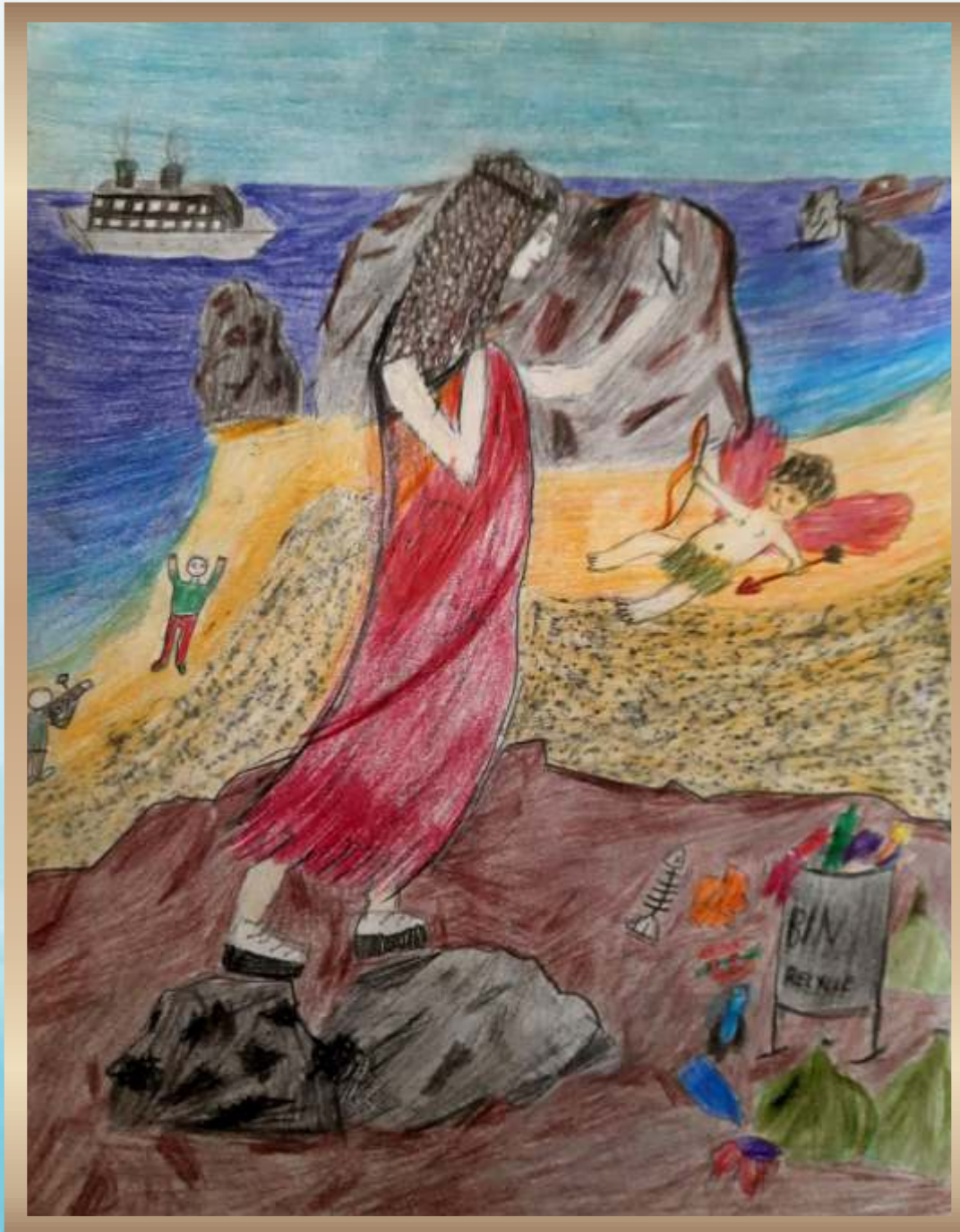
*She has been,
and still is, the
ultimate sex
bomb of all
times,
a top model, a
cult figure, an
event planner, a
party animal.*



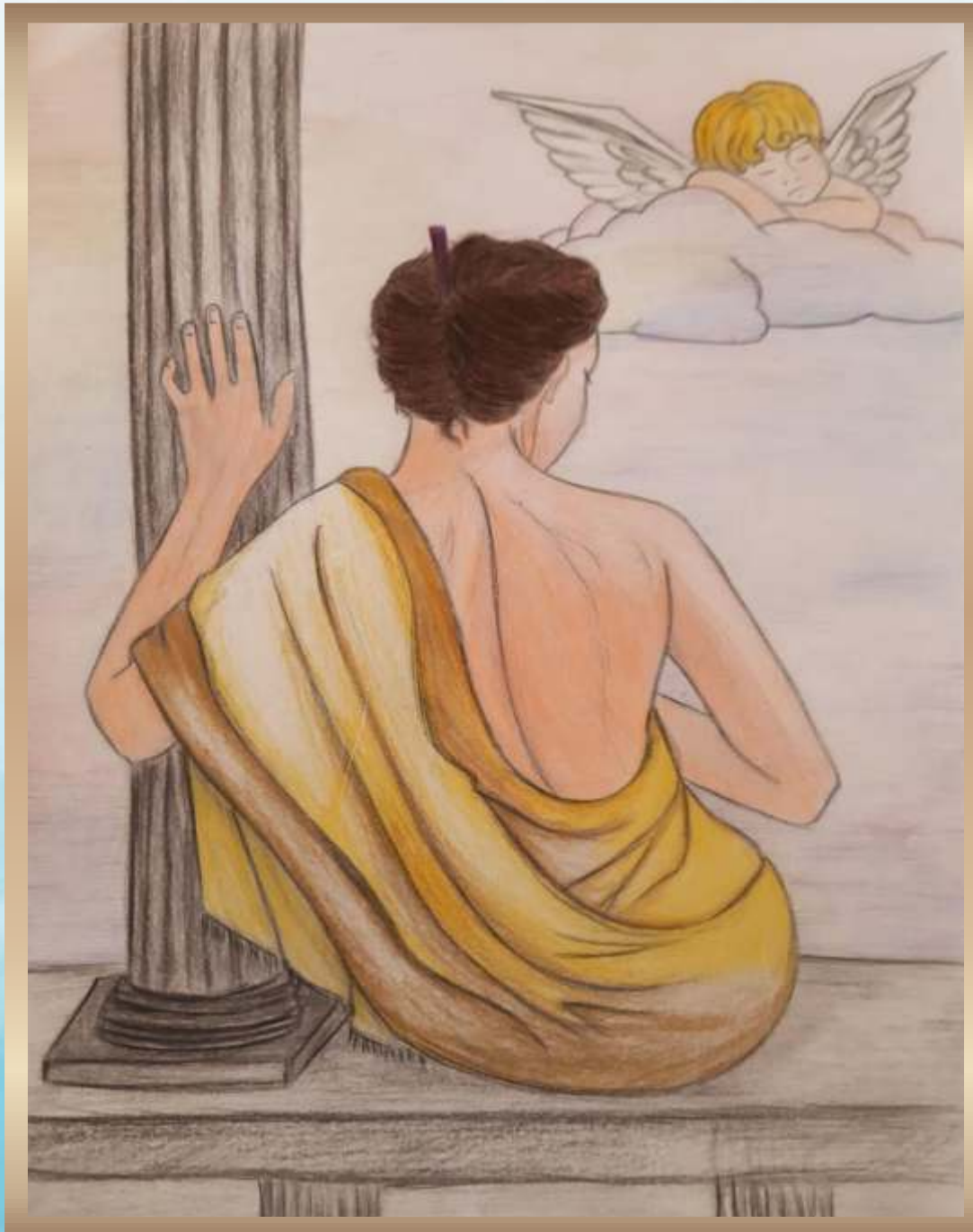
And of course she has also been a fashion icon, a trend setter, an influencer with millions of hits on her online sites.



Defying natural laws that were meant only for mortals, she has been worshipped and followed across different history periods, across different time zones, war zones, country borders, cultural borders, gender borders, mind borders...



*Born from the foam of the
sea, she is both wild and calm,
pleasure-giving yet
dangerous, all subject to
change at the spur of the
moment, . . . her moment.
Ships sank, canals closed
down and lives were
destroyed when jealous
sailors altered their routes to
check on their loved ones.*



With her son Eros they run the greatest match-making business of all times. Tinder is just the front of an elaborate umbrella conglomerate of traditional match-making neighborhood shops, internet dating apps, beauty parlors, members-only luxurious health spas and marriage planners found across the five continents and the seven seas.



It wasn't the devil who wore Prada. It was Aphrodite. Initially in charge of the invogue appearance of the other deities, her hints and tips on fashion helped millions of mortals develop the necessary killer looks responsible for high blood pressure . . . and at times, a heart attack or two.



She introduced color to feelings; blue for the calm waters of cool love, but mostly all the shades of red to accompany the heated emotions of desperate hot love, lust, desire, jealousy and why not . . . hate! Because there is a very thin line between love and hate.



*She was there at the dawn of
times. She has been rusing
our hearts through the ages,
driving both kings and
paupers insane. And she
will be around as long as
foolish mortals keep on
falling in love, doing the
stupidest things in the name
of love . . . and Mighty
Aphrodite!*



The Myth of Arethusa and Aspheus

Italy



The drawings are inspired to some pics of the dance performance held at Teatro Politeama Garibaldi in Palermo entitled "Arethusa and Alpheus - Water Mirror", a choreography specifically created for the Erasmus project. Arethusa was a beautiful nymph, she was also the favourite of Artemis goddess of hunting and knowledge, identified by the Romans with Diana.



Diana and Arethusa



Alpheus son of the Ocean god, fell in love with Arethusa



One day while running in the forest in Greece, Arethusa decided to take a refreshing swim in a stream. While in the water, she felt something move around her, it was the river god Alpheus who looked at her in love.

Arethusa was scared and ran away. Alpheus followed her and she, running and escaping from him, began to get tired.





Arethusa asked for help to Diana. Diana turned her into a source and took her in the island of Ortygia, of the Sicilian city of Syracuse.

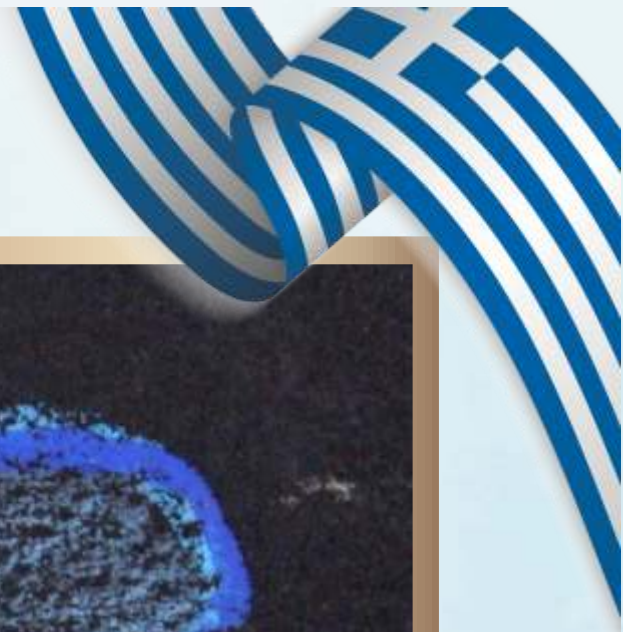
*Alpheus turned himself into a river and dug an
underground channel from Greece under the
Ionian sea to Sicily.*





*...and rejoined
his lover mixing
its waters with those
of the Arethusa
source.*





Ai Cyone

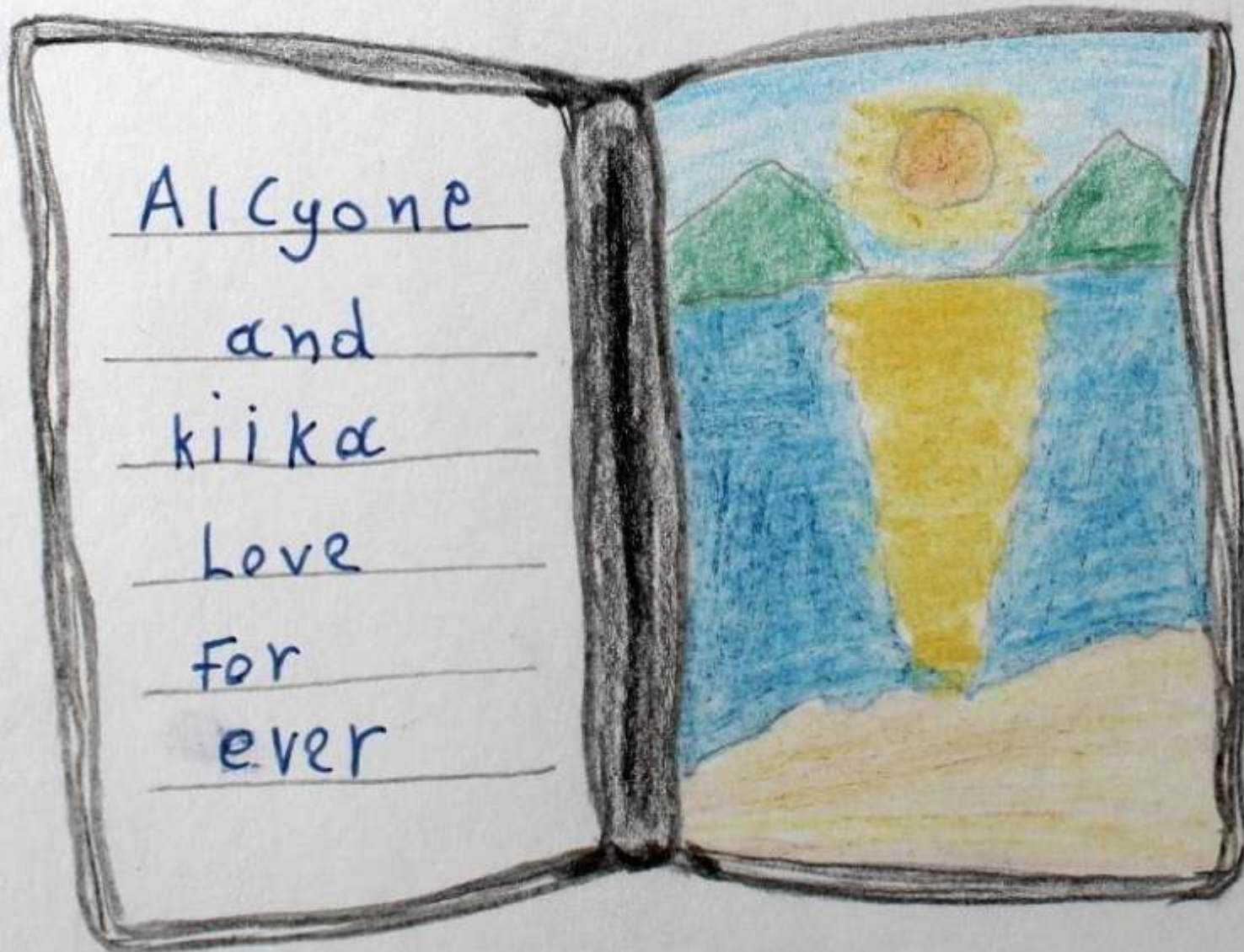
and

kiika

Love

for

ever



*Alcyone lived happily with
her husband Keika by the sea.
They were so happy together that
they believed that they were the Gods
Zeus and Hera!!*







I'll give you a lesson, fool mortals!!

Help!!

And as Kiika was drowning, Alcyone threw herself into the sea to die with him!!

*Seeing this, Zeus was touched
and decided to spare their lives...*

*I'm turning you
into Alcyone birds
(kingfisher birds)*

*Who's this
blue guy!*

*Who's
that blue
hen!*



*Moreover, Zeus decided to help them
a little bit more...
He set some sunny days
during January...*

*so you'll be able
to lay your eggs!*

*I wish it will soon
get warm!!*

*Alcyone, please
have hope!!*

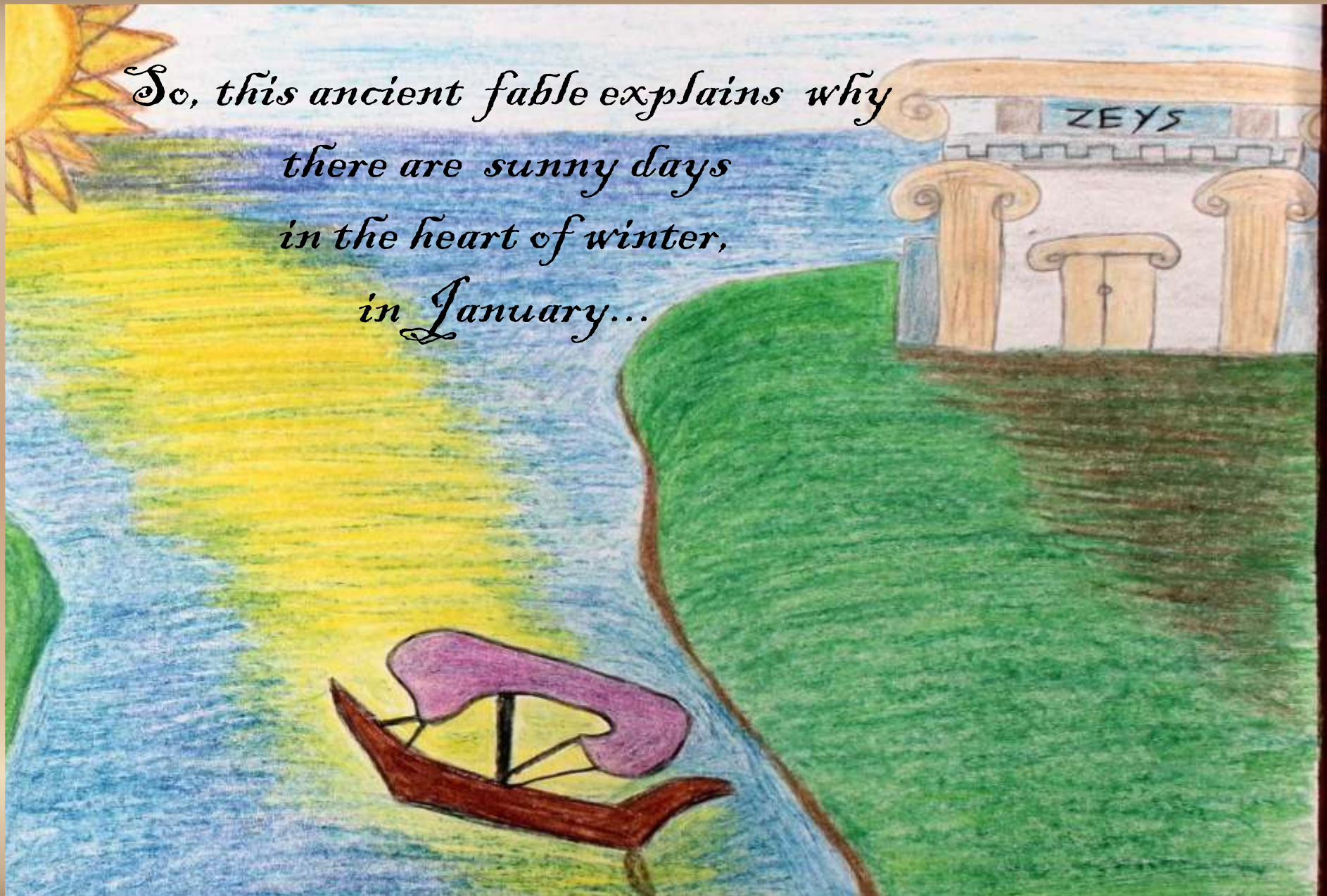


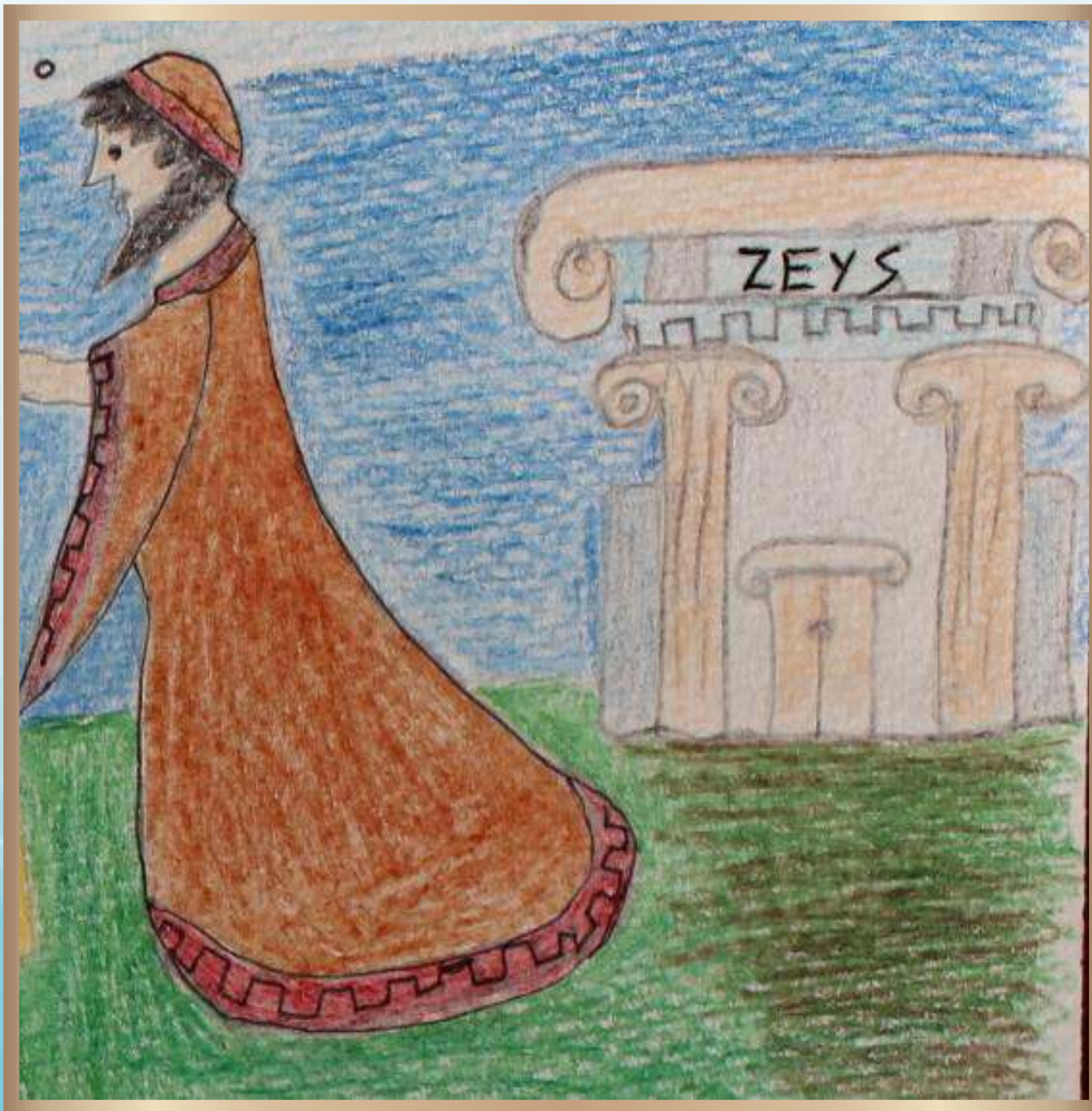


*Finally, our
punishment
ended!!!*

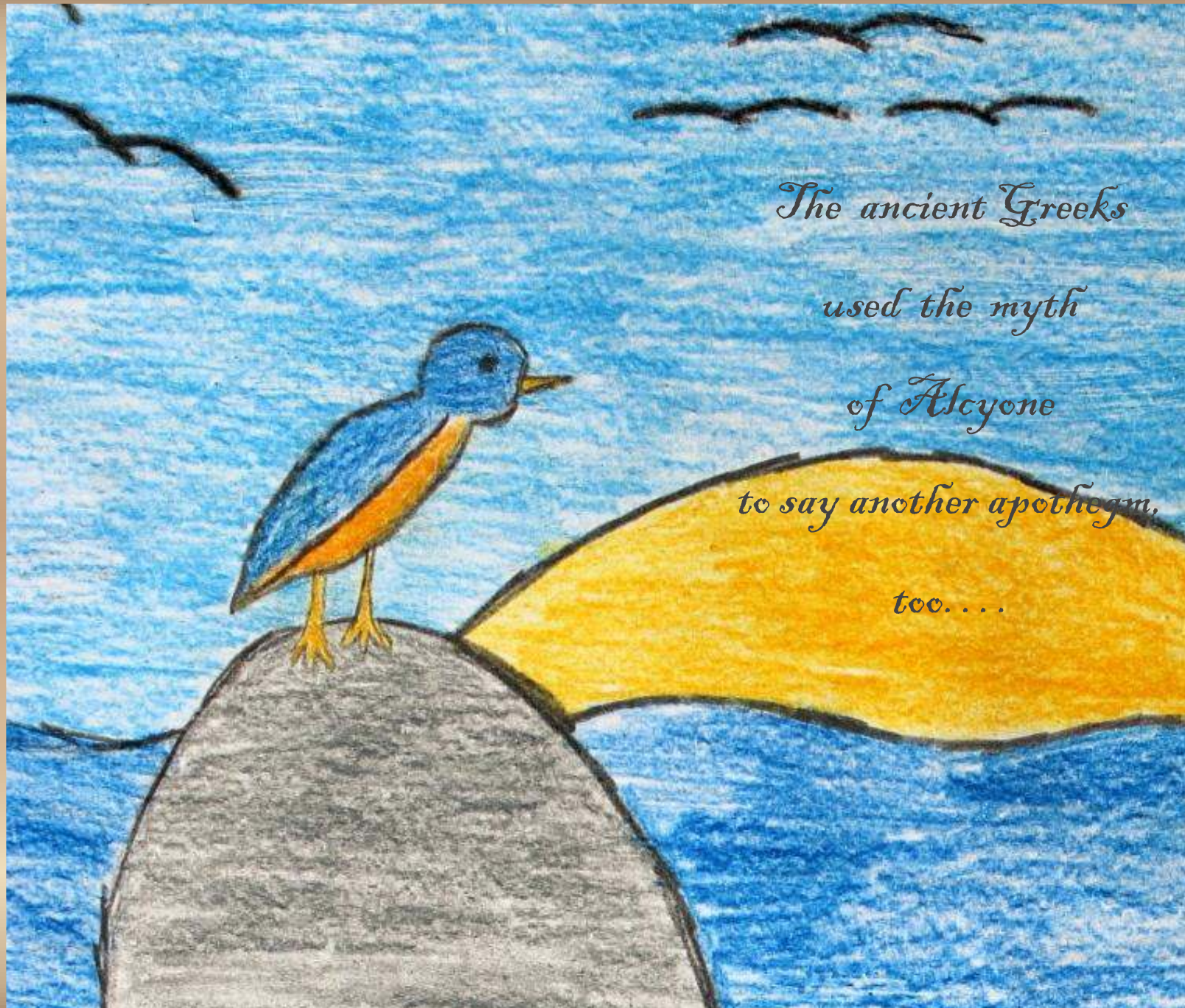
*Sun, at last!!
Kingfisher-bird
days!!*

*So, this ancient fable explains why
there are sunny days
in the heart of winter,
in January...*





*...but mainly it shows
how Zeus punished
the arrogance
of the mortals,
although the power
of their love
made him
pity them in the end.*



The ancient Greeks

used the myth

of Ascyone

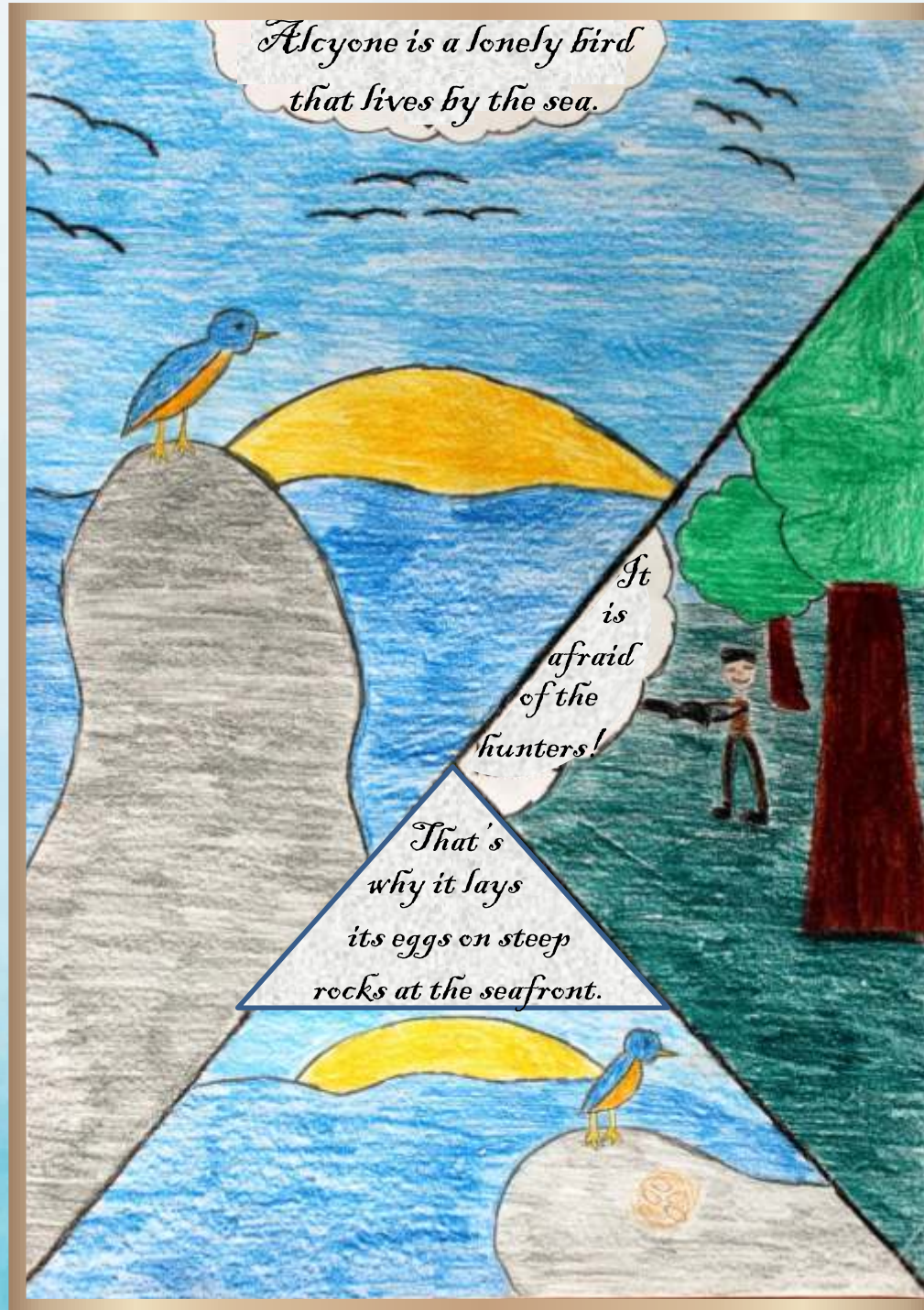
to say another apothegm,

too....

*Alcyone is a lonely bird
that lives by the sea.*

*It
is
afraid
of the
hunters!*

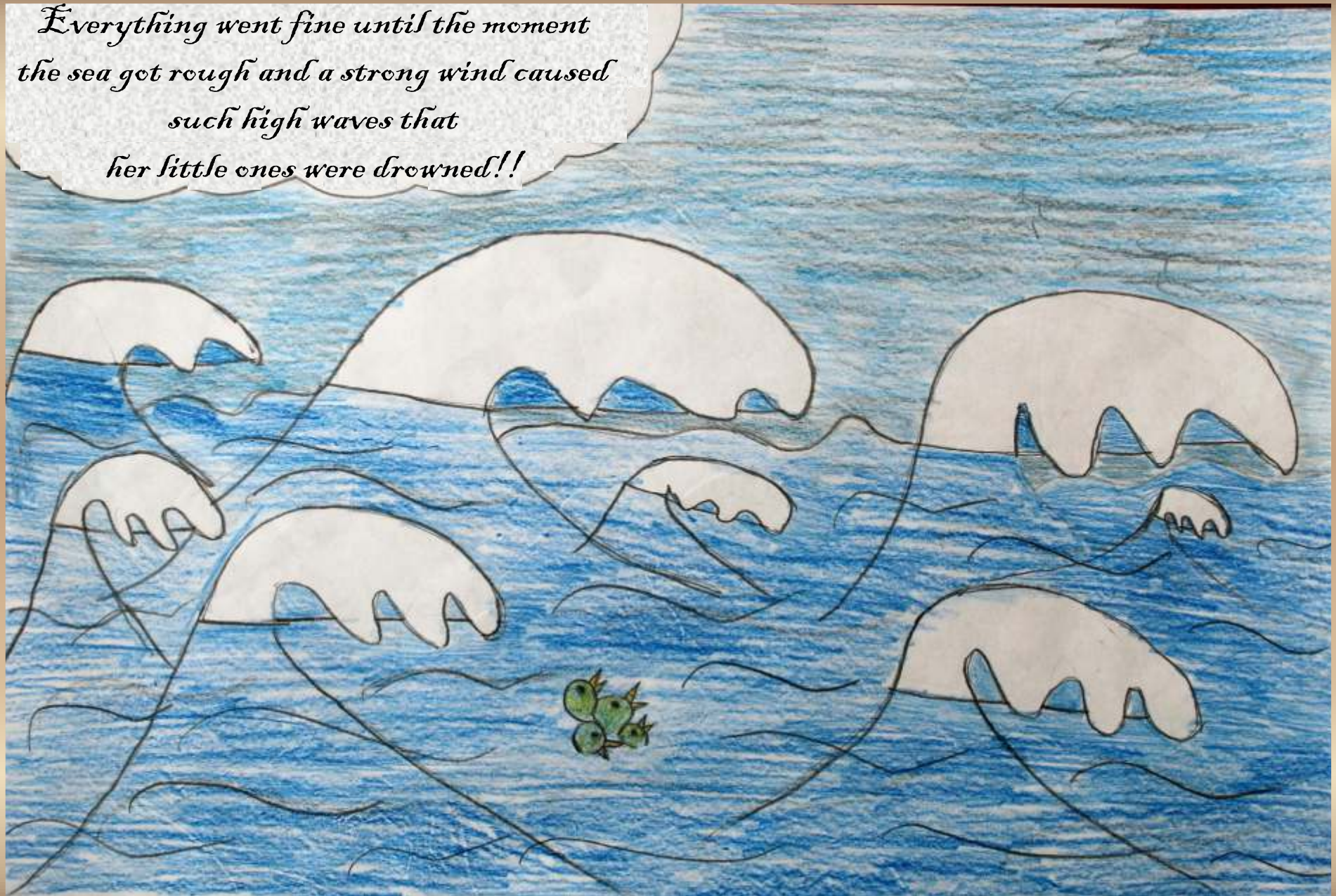
*That's
why it lays
its eggs on steep
rocks at the seafront.*




*One day, when she was just to lay
her eggs, she saw a sea-rock and
decided to lay her eggs there.
Then she flew away to get
some food for her chicks.*




*Everything went fine until the moment
the sea got rough and a strong wind caused
such high waves that
her little ones were drowned!!*



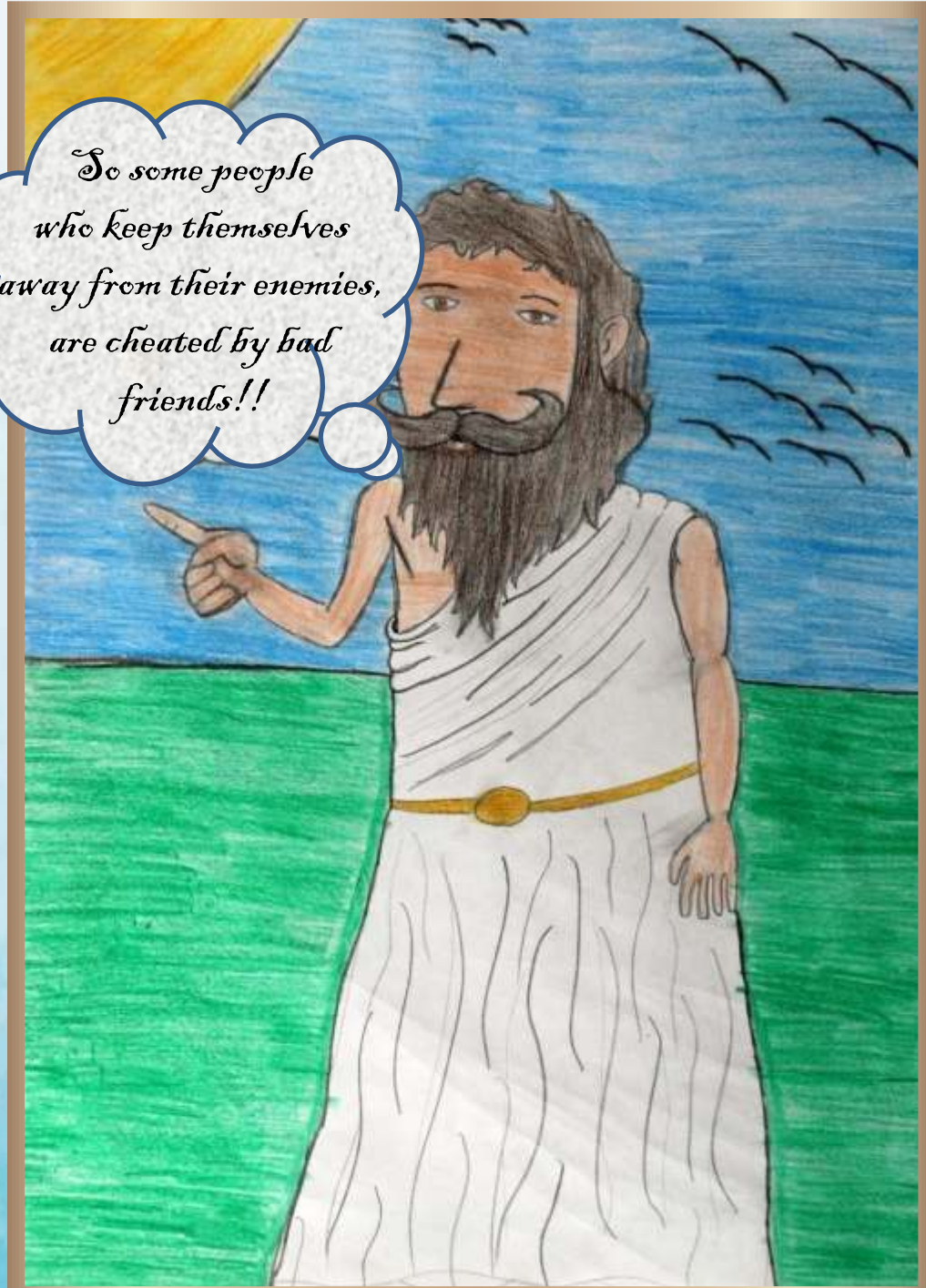


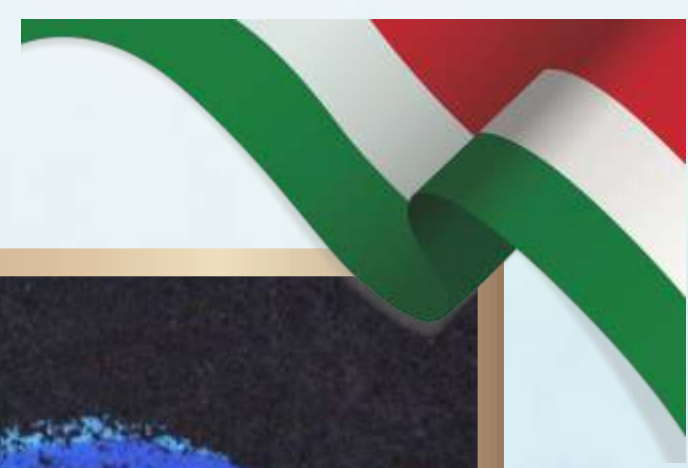
As soon as mother Ascyone came back to her nest and saw it floating in the sea, she realized what had happened.



*Alas,
the unfortunate me!
I tried to protect us from the sand
and its dangers, so
I resorted to the sea
which has been proved much
more untrustworthy!*

*So some people
who keep themselves
away from their enemies,
are cheated by bad
friends!!*



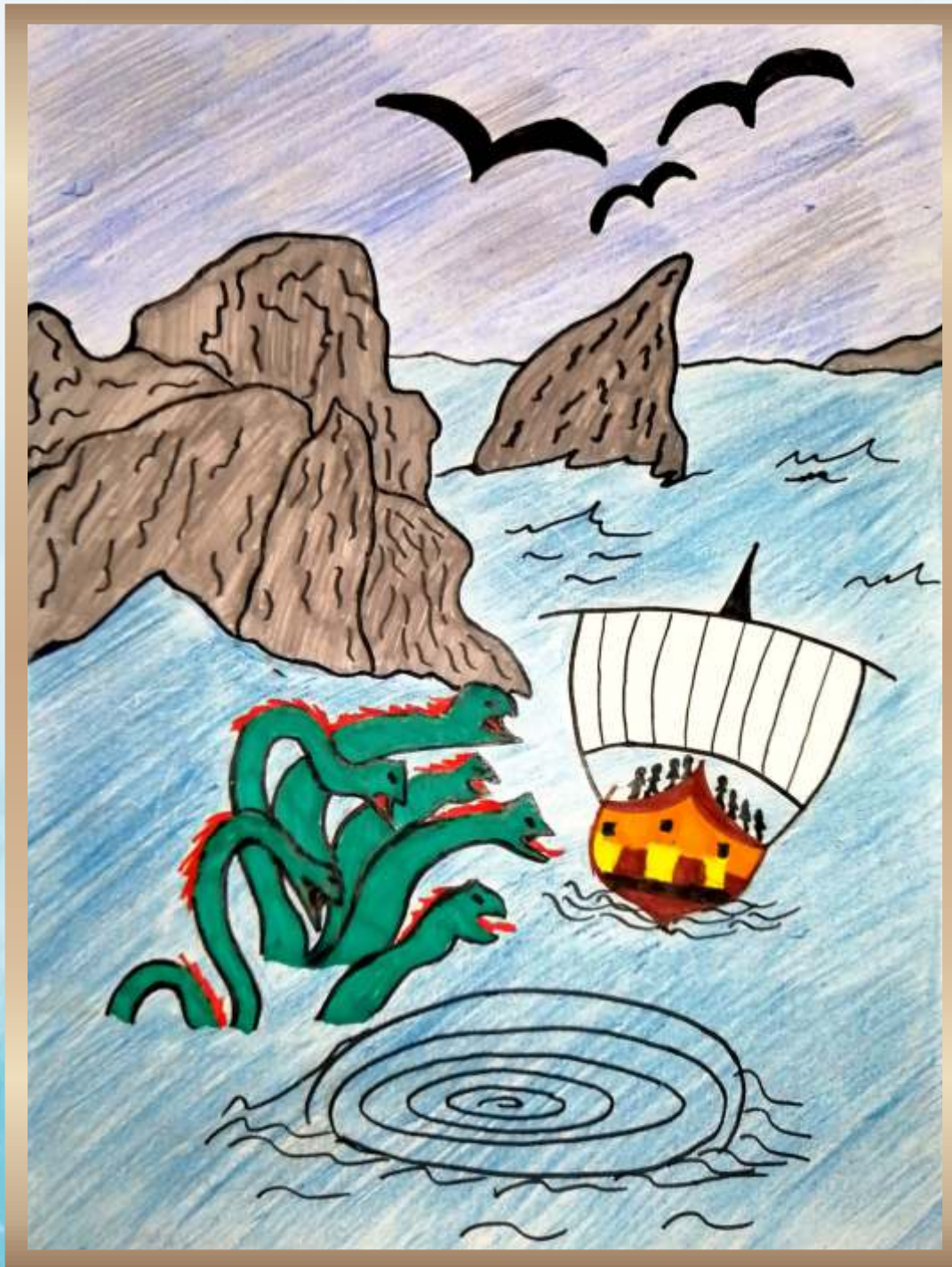


The Myth of Scylla and Charybdis

Italy

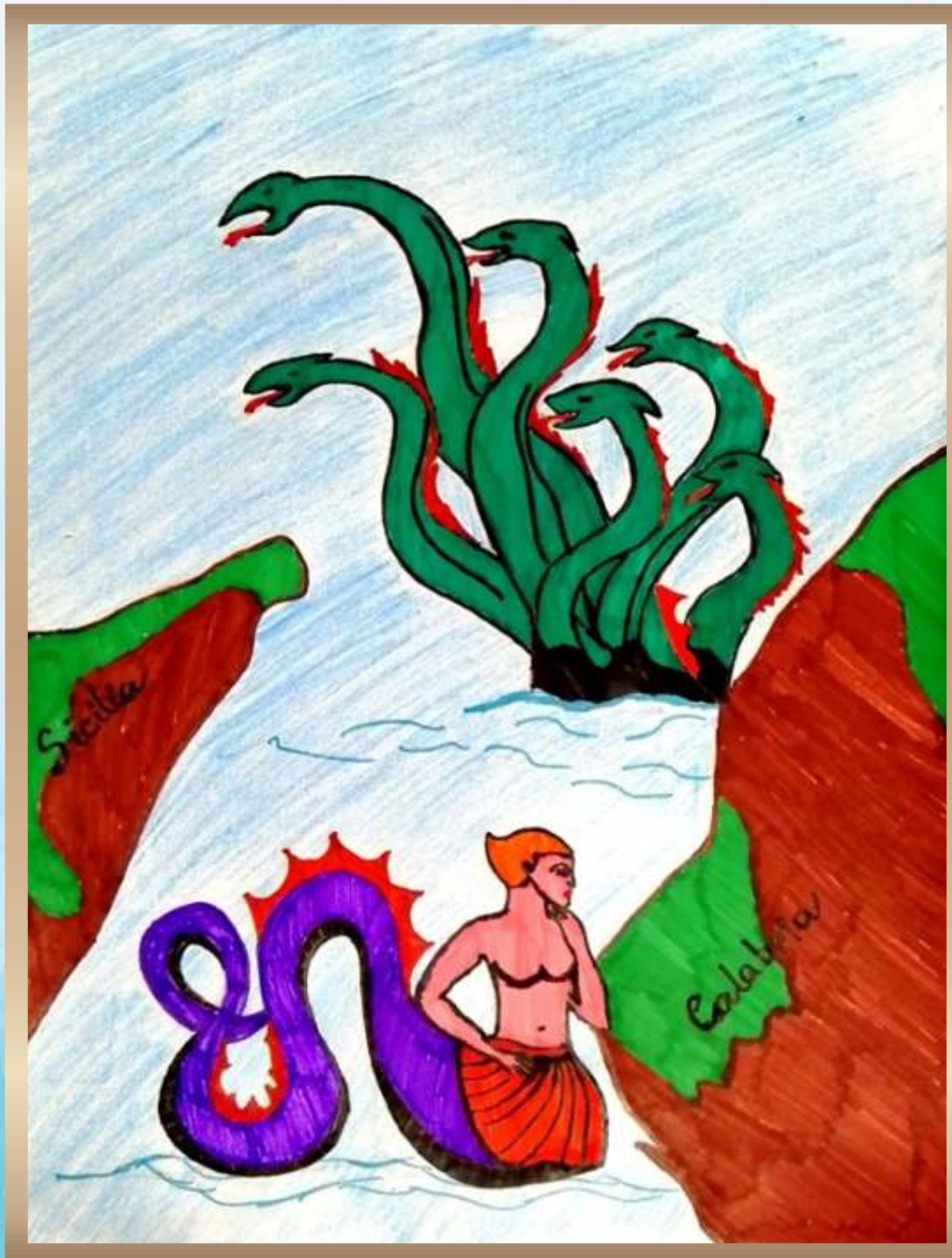


*Scylla was originally a nymph.
Glaucus had fallen in love with her, even
refusing the love of the sorceress Circe,
who turned Scylla into a six
headed monster who ate all the passers-
by on the sea*



*Charybdis was a greedy and
hungry girl, who didn't care too
much
about what she ate ... one day she
stole the oxen out of Heracles
and as a
punishment she was transformed
by Zeus into a monster. The
whirlpool
of Charybdis would draw in and
push out large amounts of water
with
such a force that ships might be
sunk in it.*





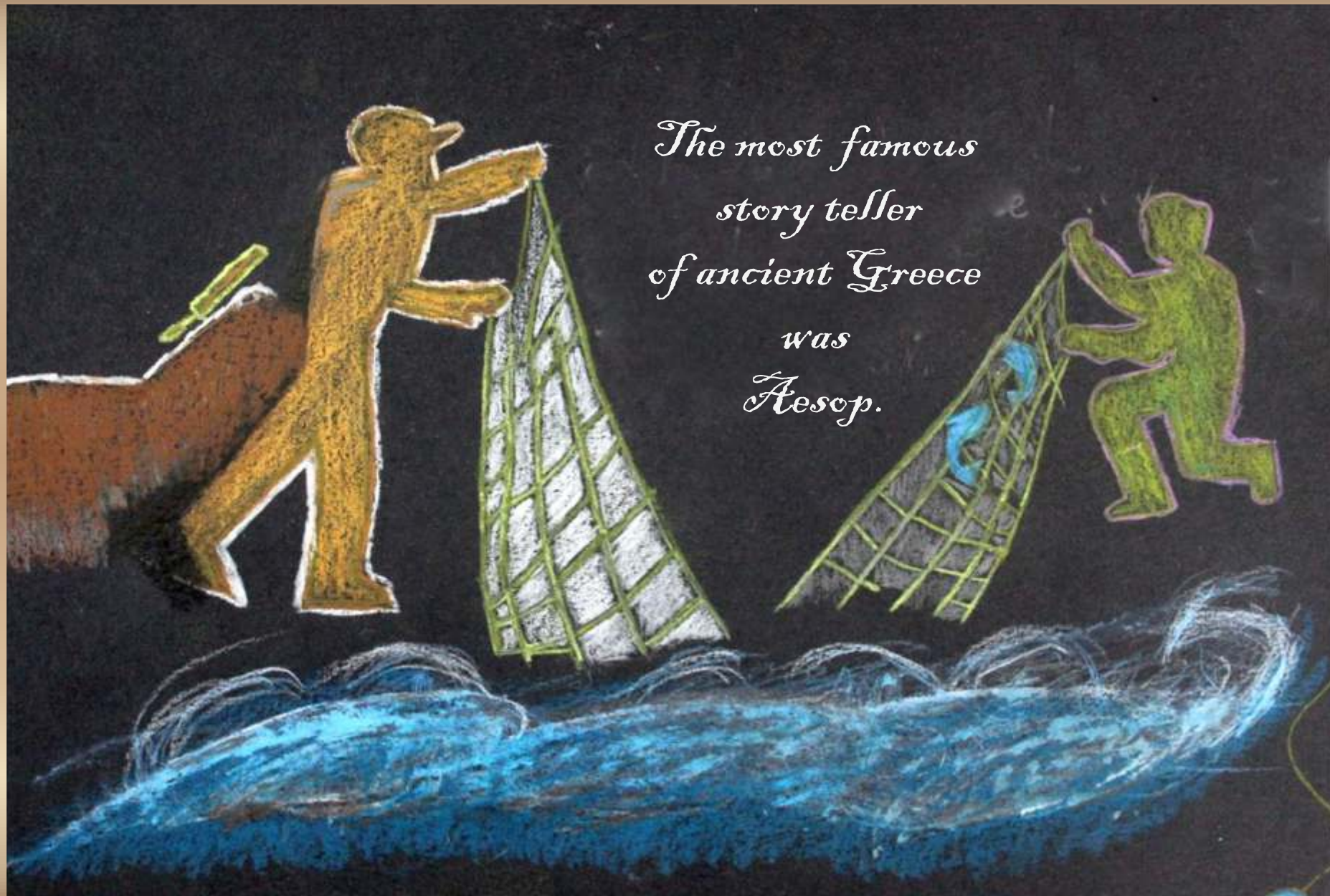
Scylla and Charybdis were said to live on opposite side of a narrow strait of water - Stretto di Messina- the passage of water between the Italian mainland and the island of Sicily. Thus no vessel could pass between Scylla and Charybdis. The combination of Scylla and Charybdis gave rise to an old saying of "between Scylla and Charybdis", a saying which evolved into a more popular idiom "between a rock and a hard place", both sayings equating to dangers which ever direction was faced.

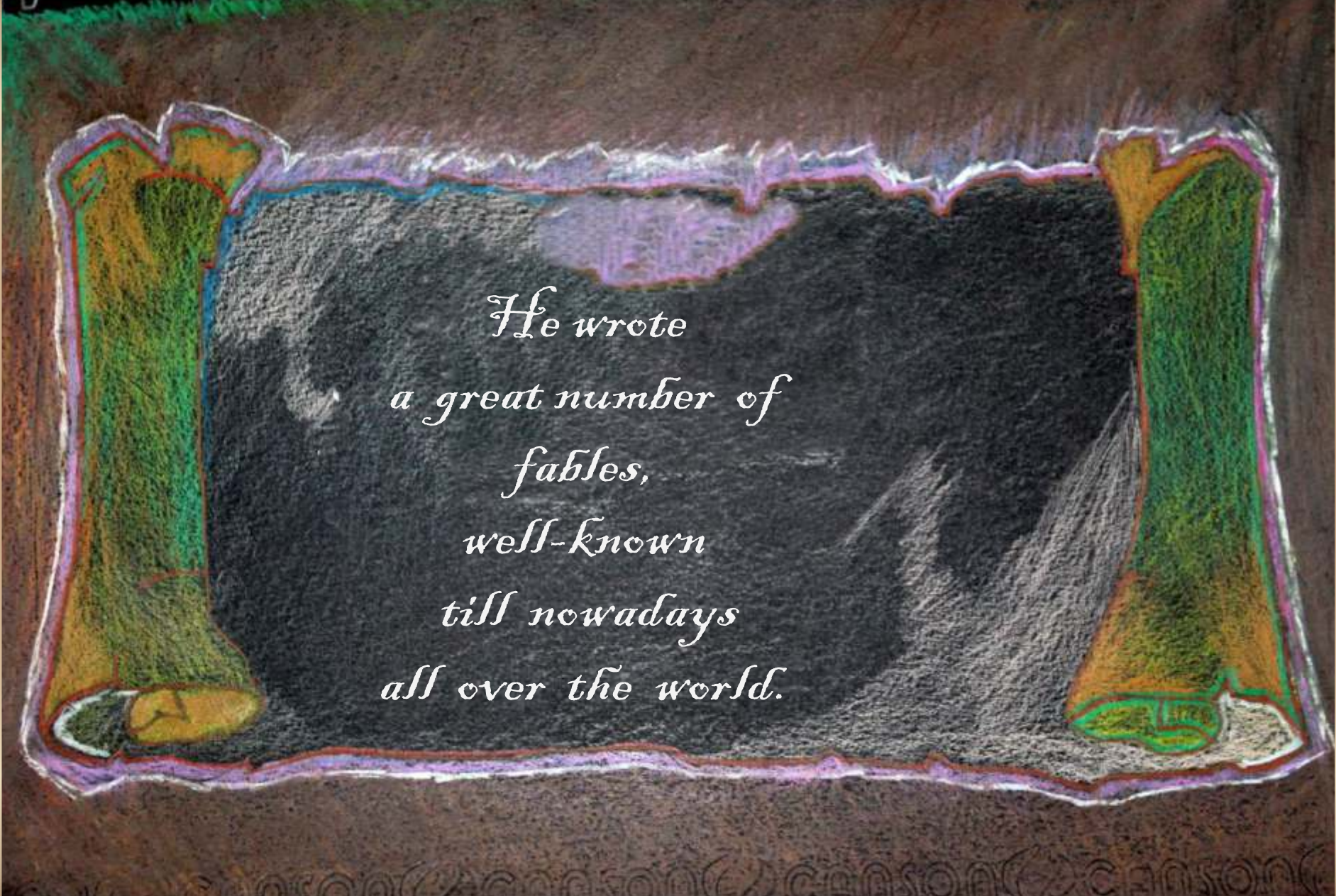


*The fisherman and the
little fish*

Greece

*The most famous
story teller
of ancient Greece
was
Aesop.*





*He wrote
a great number of
fables,
well-known
till nowadays
all over the world.*



*In these myths,
animals can speak,
solve problems,
and generally
have
human
characteristics.*



*All the myths
of Aesop
want
to educate people
by giving
a wise apothegm
and
an advice
to the audience.*

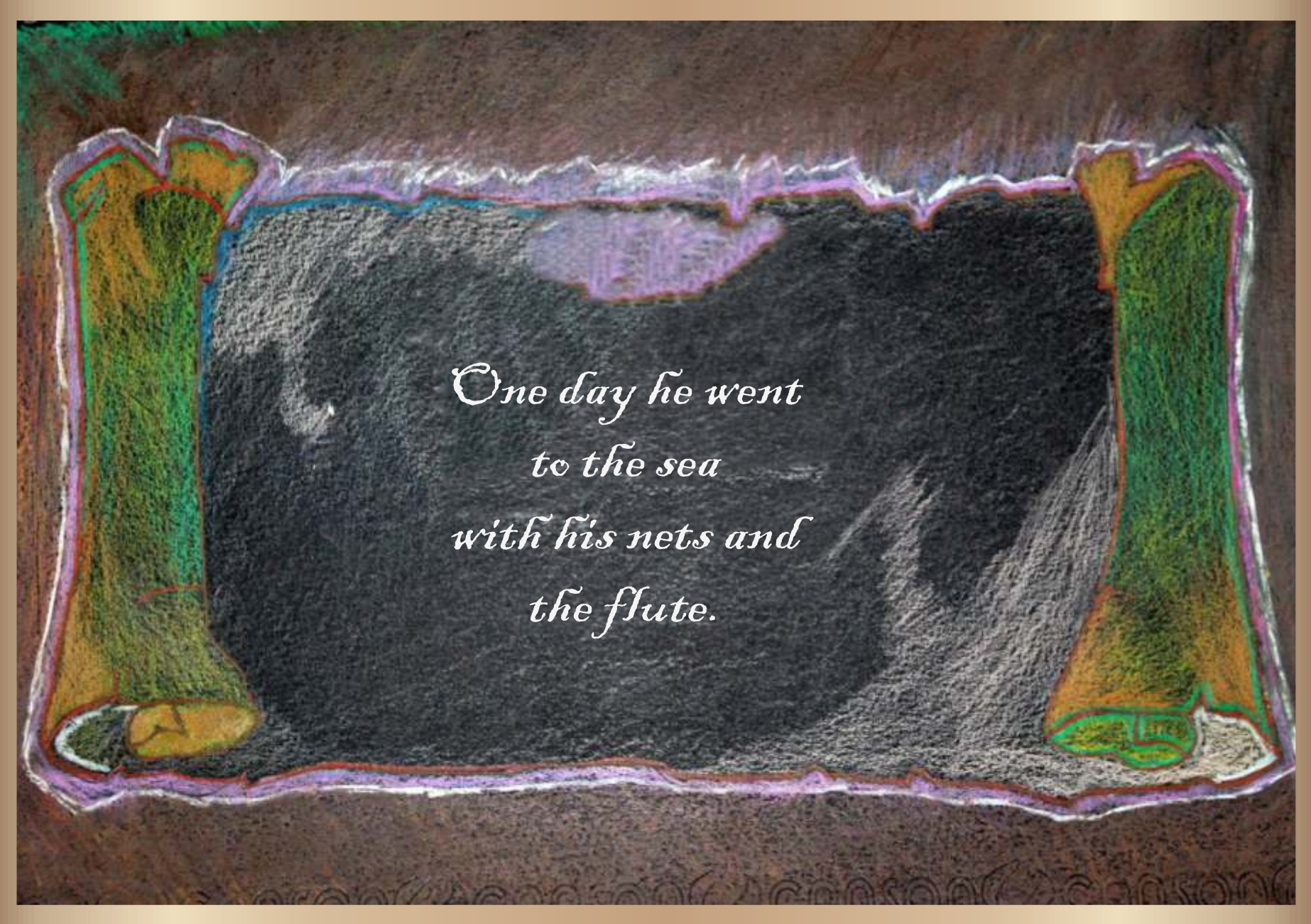


So, let's begin our story....

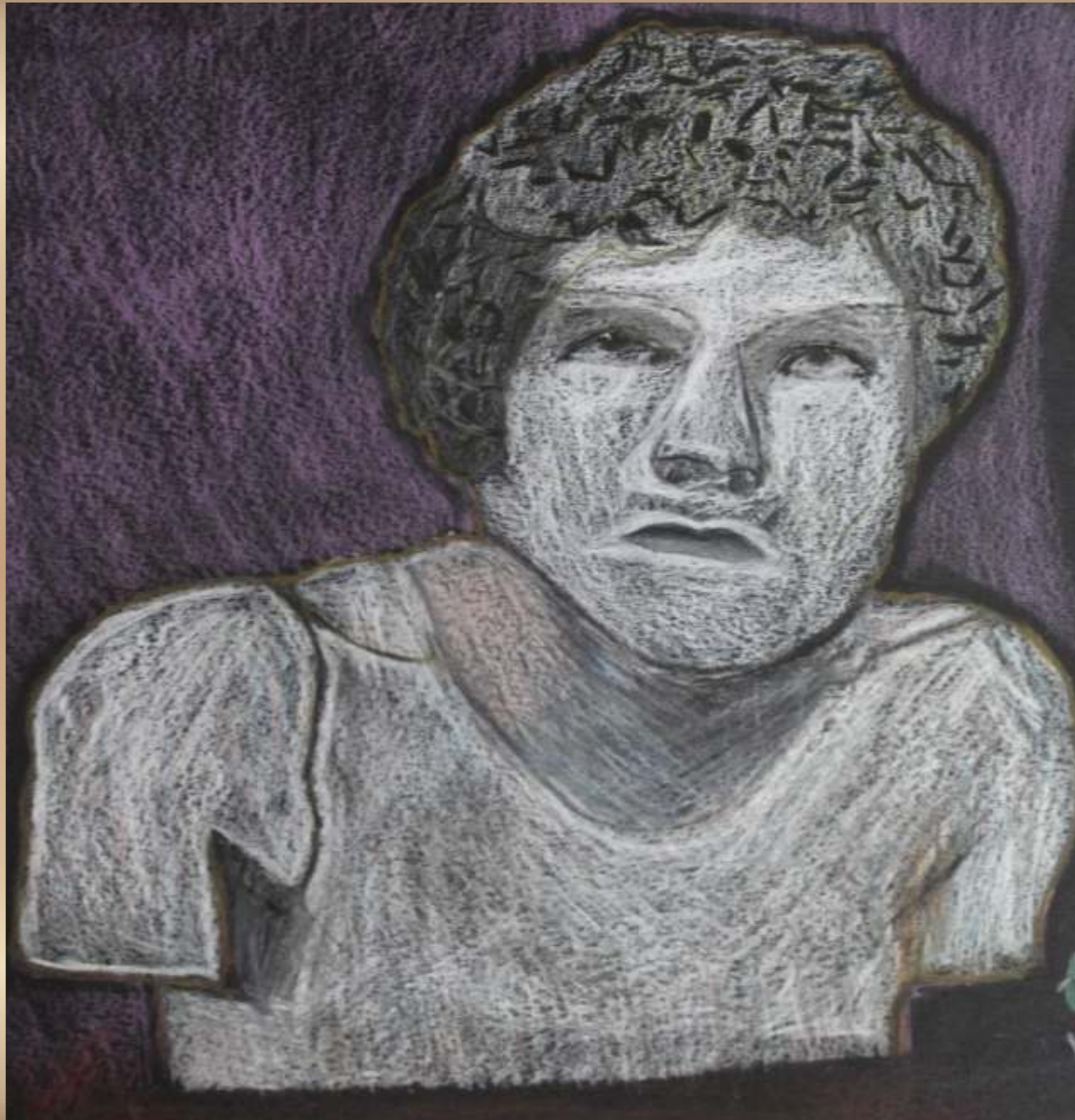
*The fisherman
and
the little fish*



*Once upon a time,
there was a fisherman
who also knew
how to play the flute.*



*One day he went
to the sea
with his nets and
the flute.*



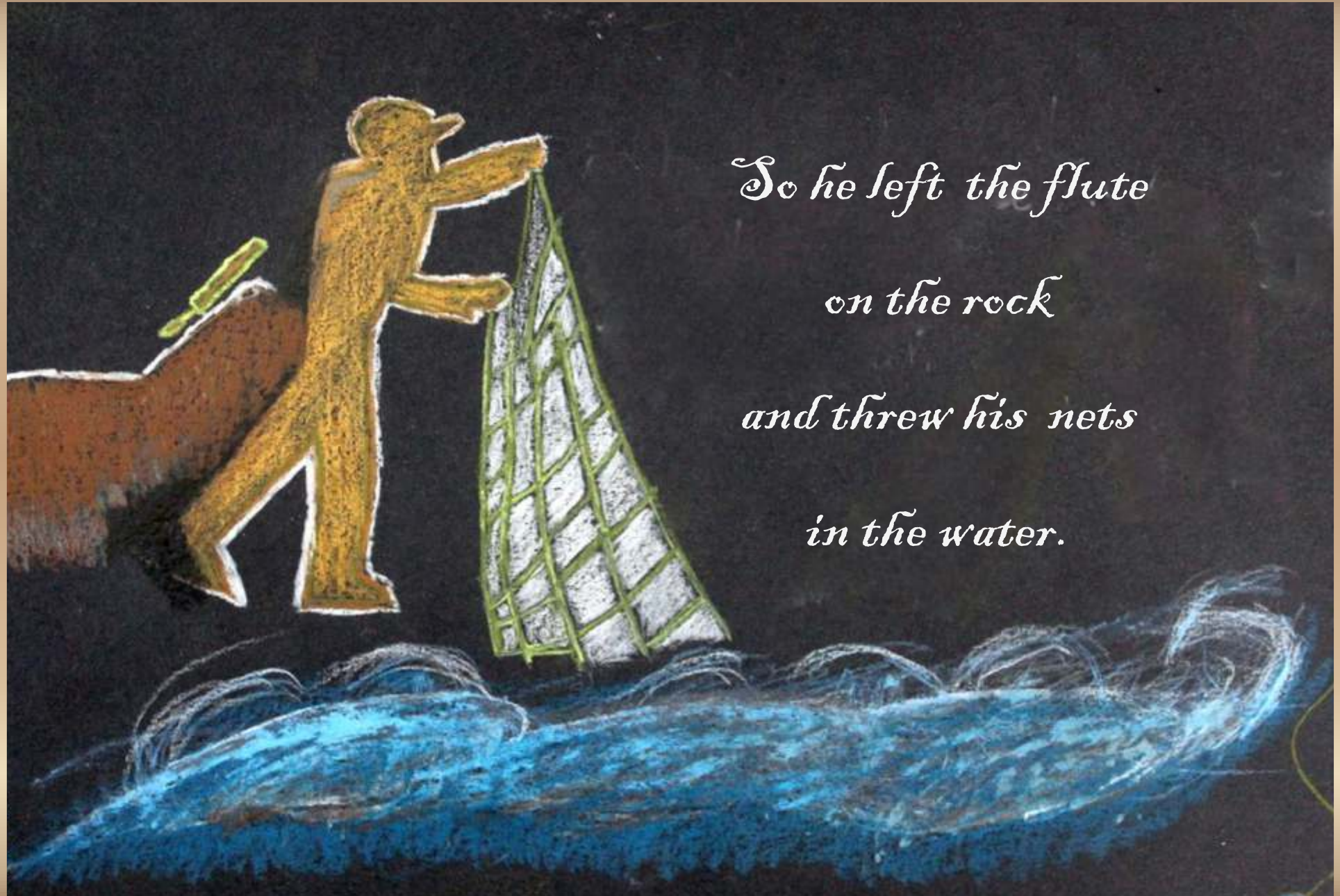
*The fool thought that
the fish would come
on the surface
more easily
by listening to his song...*



..but of course

his effort

was unfruitful....



*So he left the flute
on the rock
and threw his nets
in the water.*

A lot of fish were caught in them!!!

*He was so happy and grateful
to God for this!!!*





*However,
when he got the fish out,
they started flopping
and he got upset.*



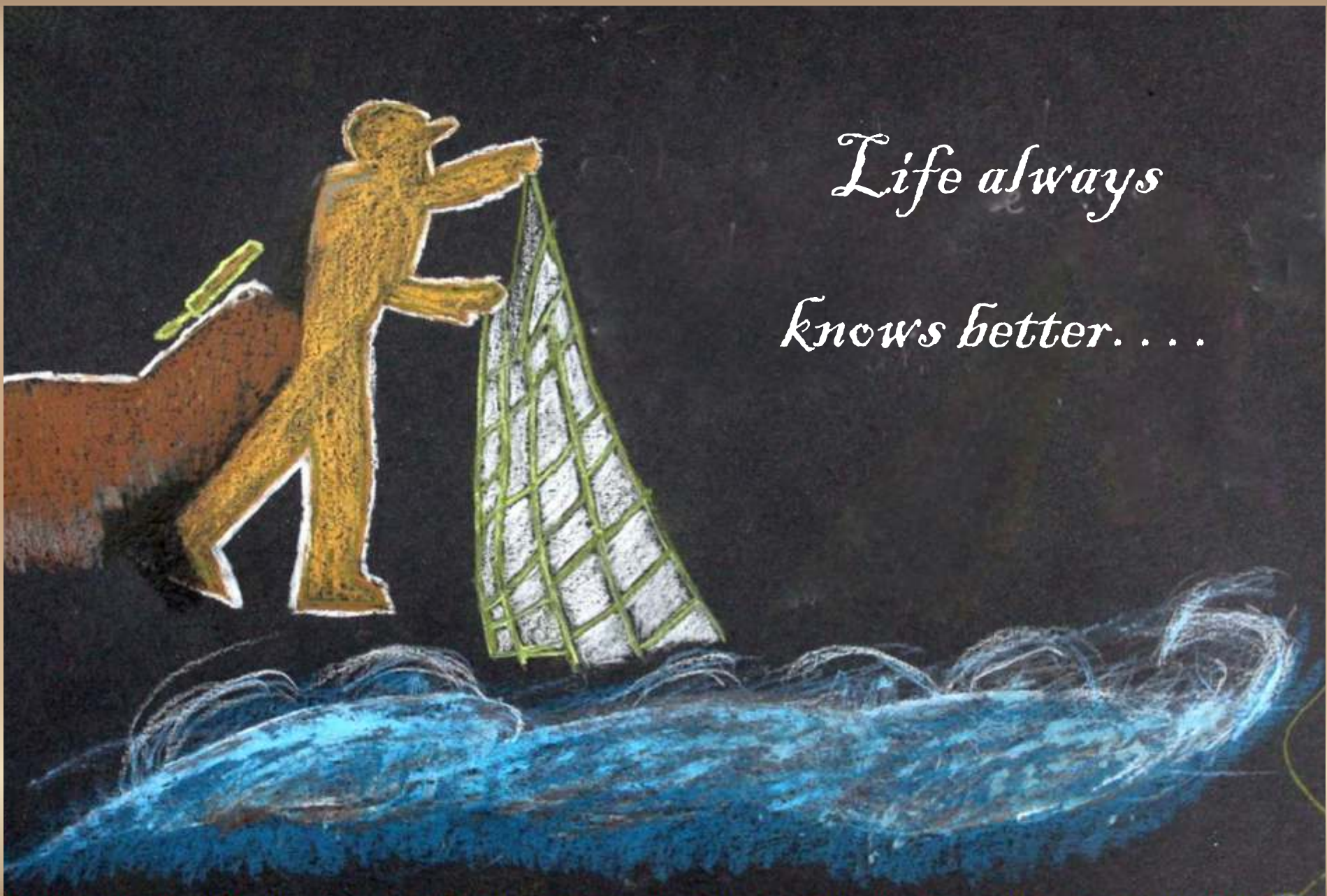
So, he shouted:
You are so bad fish!!!
When you listened
to my music,
you made no movement!!
Now that I stopped,
you keep dancing!!!



*So, although
the naive fisherman
wanted to catch the fish
by playing the flute,
Life and Nature
couldn't follow
his fool will!!*



*This fable teaches us that
things just happen in life,
no matter how strongly
we wish for them
at a specific time!!!*



*Life always
knows better. . . .*



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