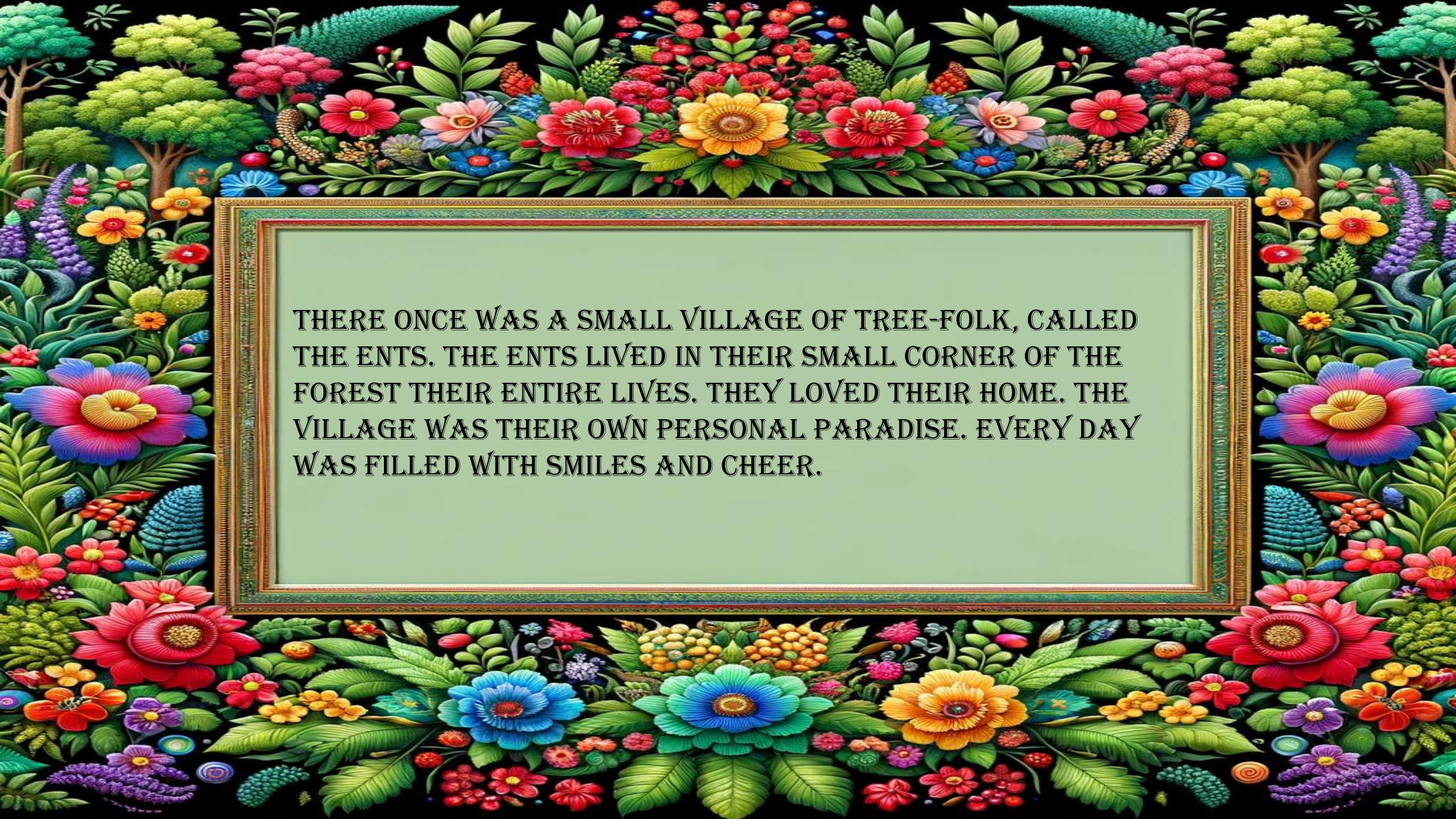




A VIBRANT LIFE

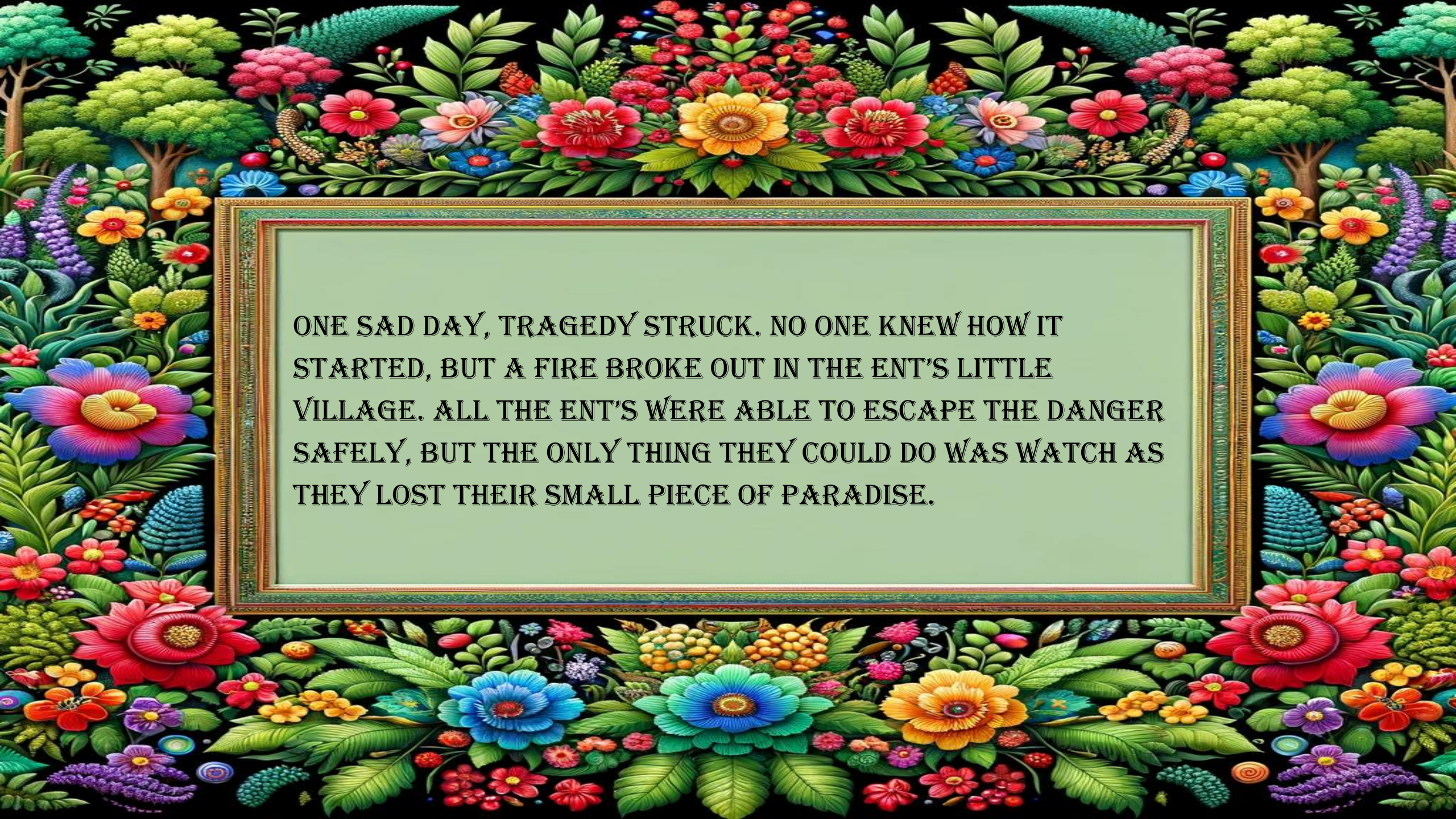
By Rocky Harding





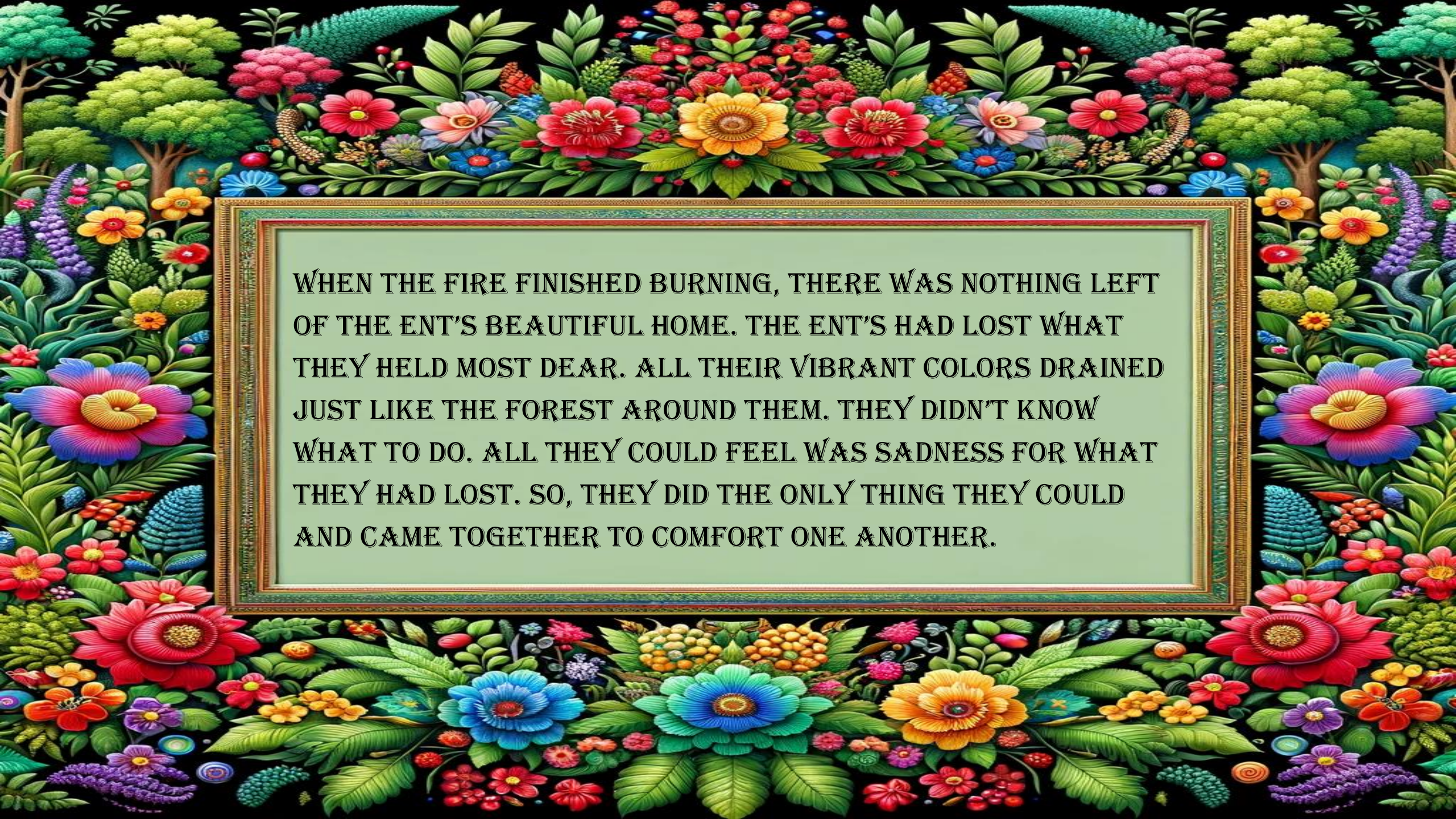
THERE ONCE WAS A SMALL VILLAGE OF TREE-FOLK, CALLED
THE ENTS. THE ENTS LIVED IN THEIR SMALL CORNER OF THE
FOREST THEIR ENTIRE LIVES. THEY LOVED THEIR HOME. THE
VILLAGE WAS THEIR OWN PERSONAL PARADISE. EVERY DAY
WAS FILLED WITH SMILES AND CHEER.





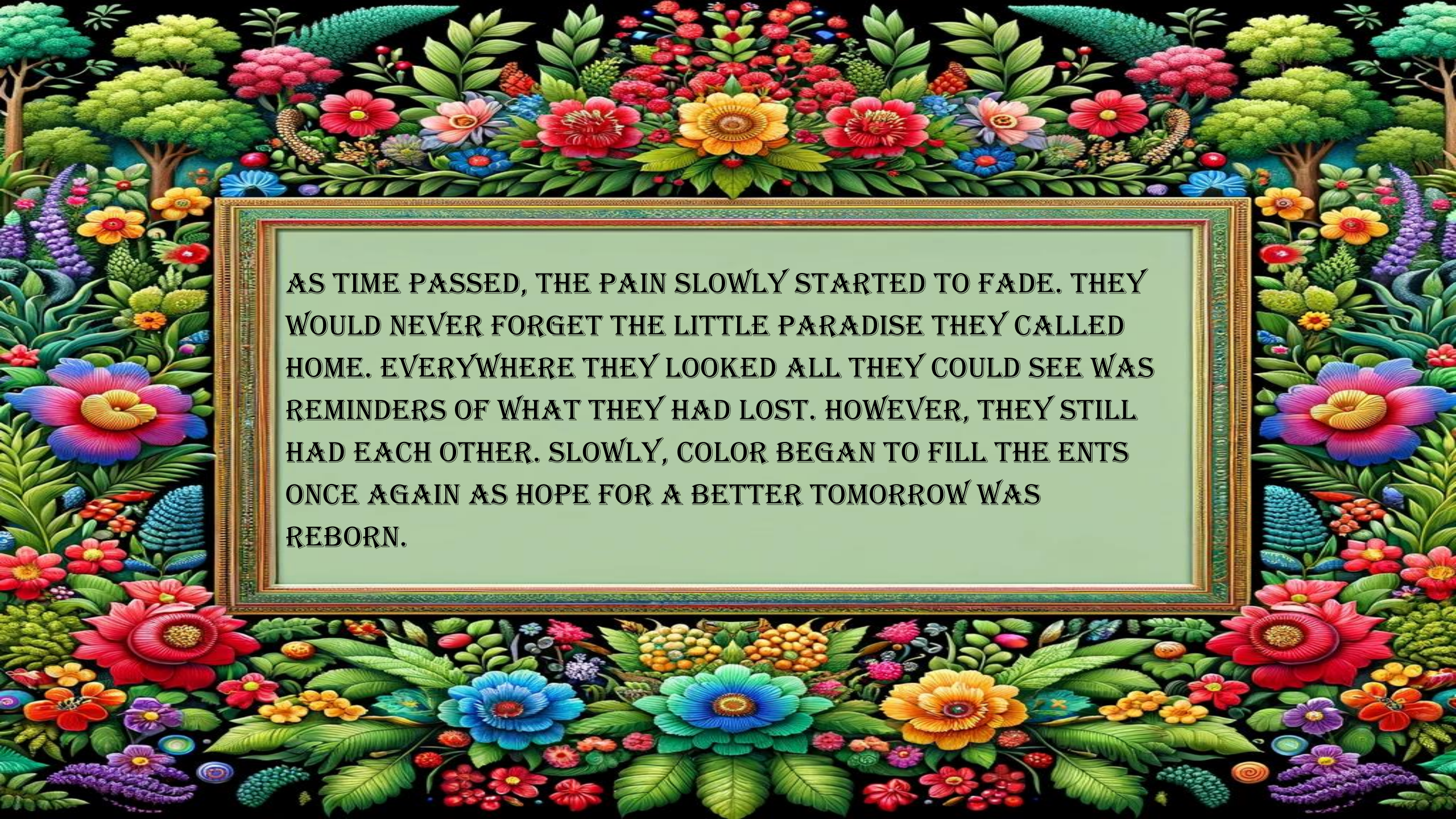
ONE SAD DAY, TRAGEDY STRUCK. NO ONE KNEW HOW IT STARTED, BUT A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE ENT'S LITTLE VILLAGE. ALL THE ENT'S WERE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE DANGER SAFELY, BUT THE ONLY THING THEY COULD DO WAS WATCH AS THEY LOST THEIR SMALL PIECE OF PARADISE.





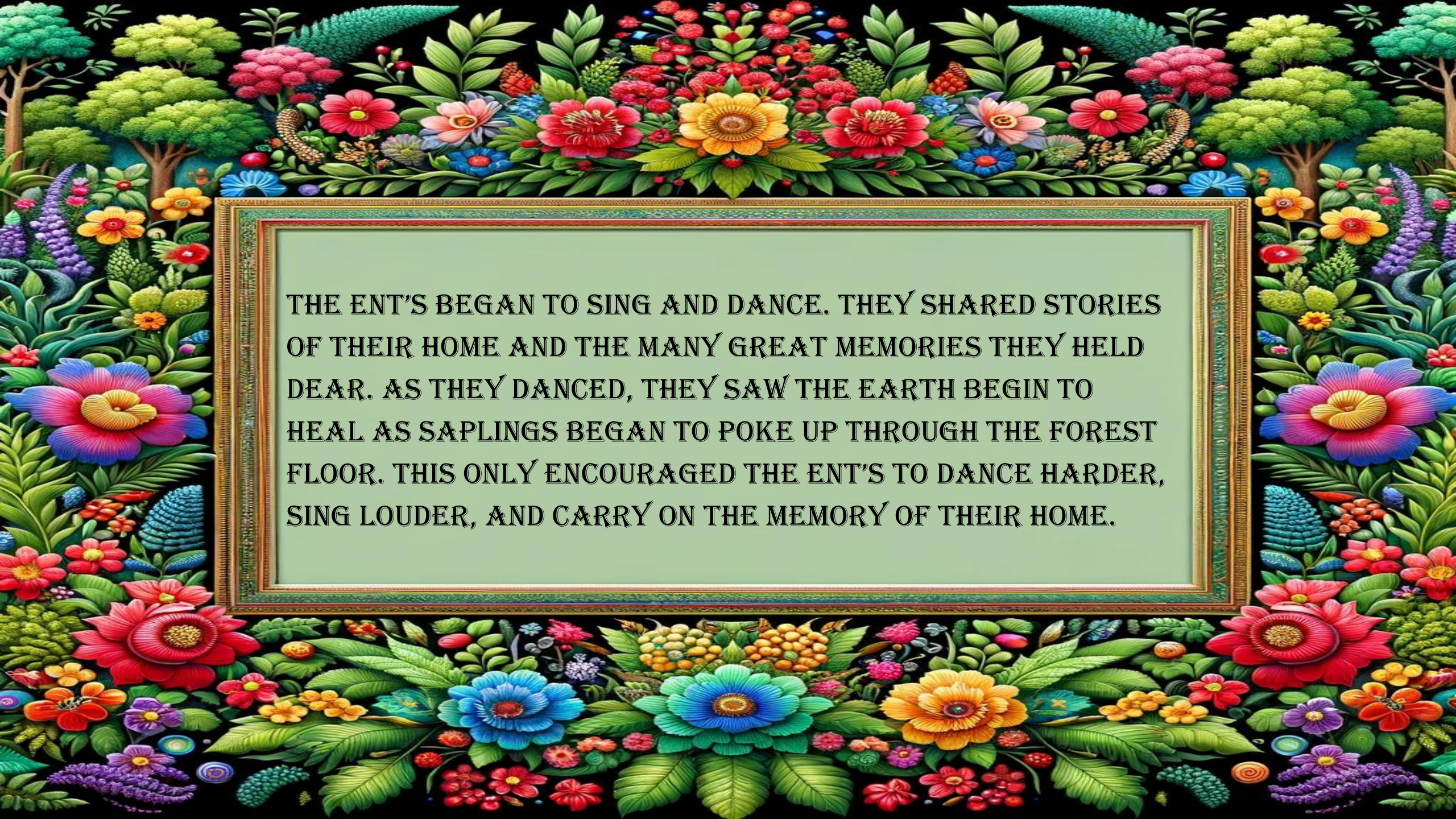
WHEN THE FIRE FINISHED BURNING, THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF THE ENT'S BEAUTIFUL HOME. THE ENT'S HAD LOST WHAT THEY HELD MOST DEAR. ALL THEIR VIBRANT COLORS DRAINED JUST LIKE THE FOREST AROUND THEM. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. ALL THEY COULD FEEL WAS SADNESS FOR WHAT THEY HAD LOST. SO, THEY DID THE ONLY THING THEY COULD AND CAME TOGETHER TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.



The image is a highly detailed and colorful illustration of a garden. It features a variety of flowers, including large pink and red blossoms, smaller blue and yellow flowers, and clusters of purple and red berries. The foliage is dense and green, with some leaves showing fine detail. In the center, there is a rectangular text box with a gold border and a light green background. The text is written in a black, serif font. The overall composition is symmetrical and balanced, with the text box acting as the focal point.

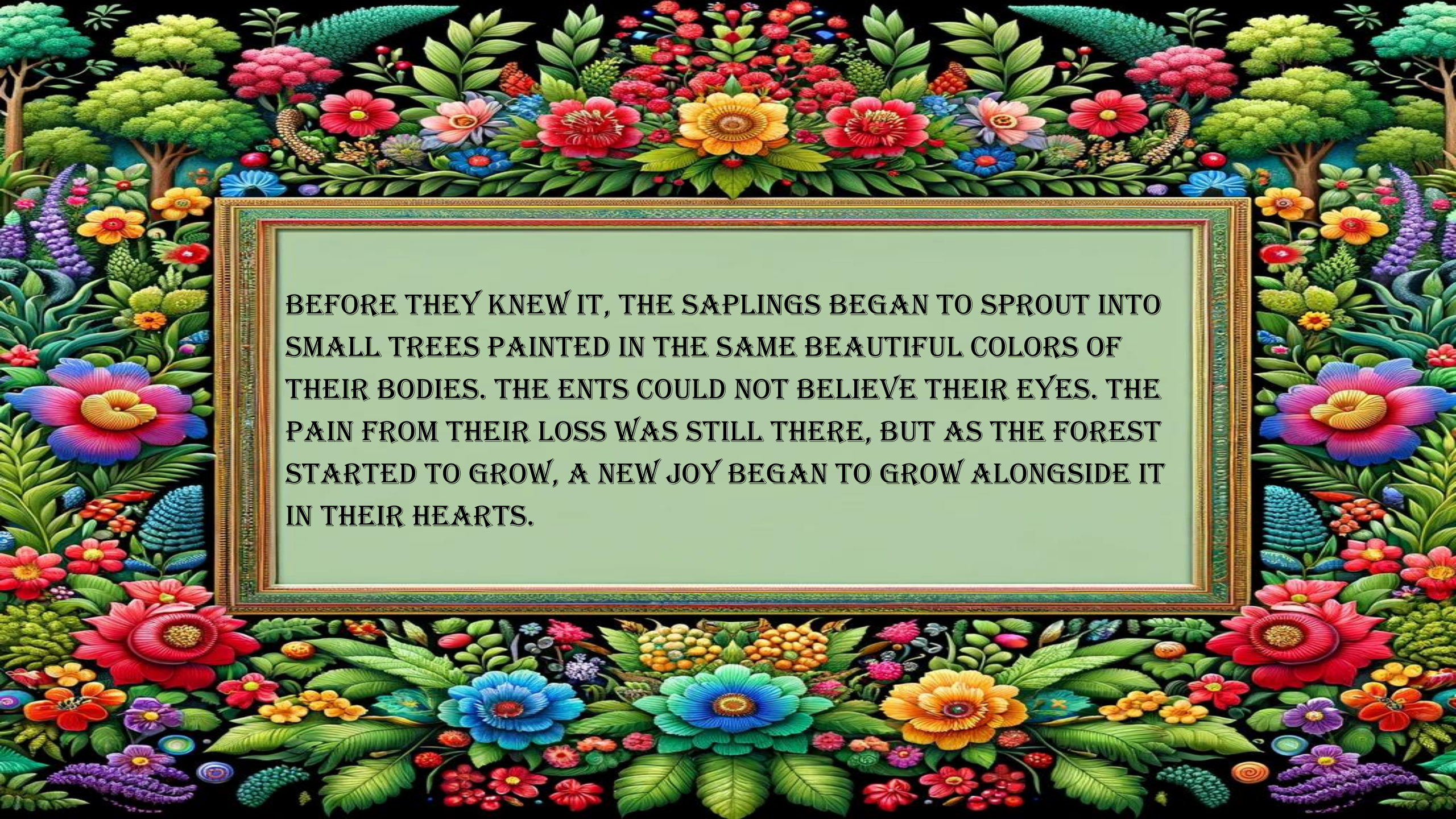
AS TIME PASSED, THE PAIN SLOWLY STARTED TO FADE. THEY WOULD NEVER FORGET THE LITTLE PARADISE THEY CALLED HOME. EVERYWHERE THEY LOOKED ALL THEY COULD SEE WAS REMINDERS OF WHAT THEY HAD LOST. HOWEVER, THEY STILL HAD EACH OTHER. SLOWLY, COLOR BEGAN TO FILL THE ENTS ONCE AGAIN AS HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW WAS REBORN.





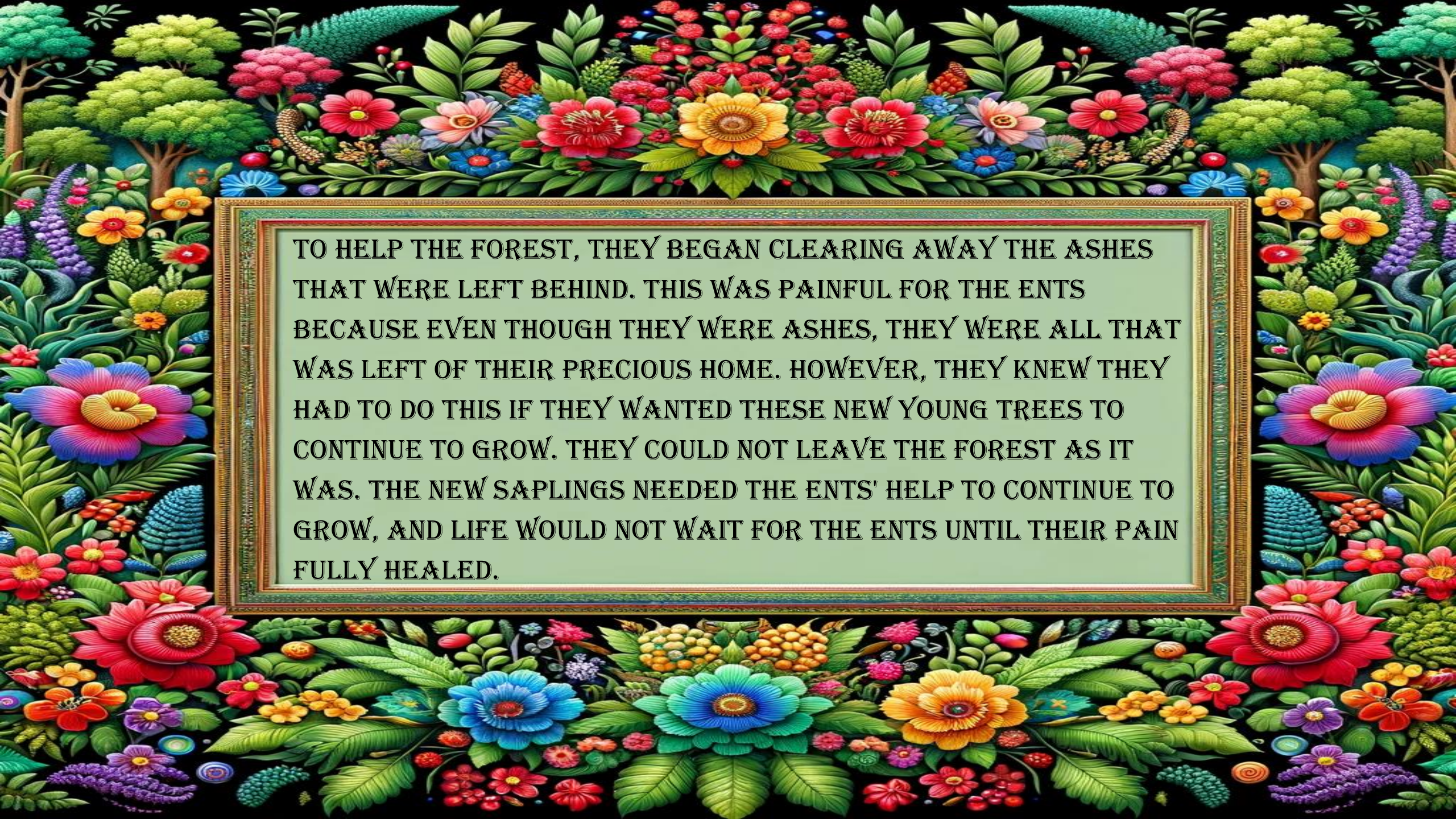
THE ENT'S BEGAN TO SING AND DANCE. THEY SHARED STORIES OF THEIR HOME AND THE MANY GREAT MEMORIES THEY HELD DEAR. AS THEY DANCED, THEY SAW THE EARTH BEGIN TO HEAL AS SAPLINGS BEGAN TO POKE UP THROUGH THE FOREST FLOOR. THIS ONLY ENCOURAGED THE ENT'S TO DANCE HARDER, SING LOUDER, AND CARRY ON THE MEMORY OF THEIR HOME.





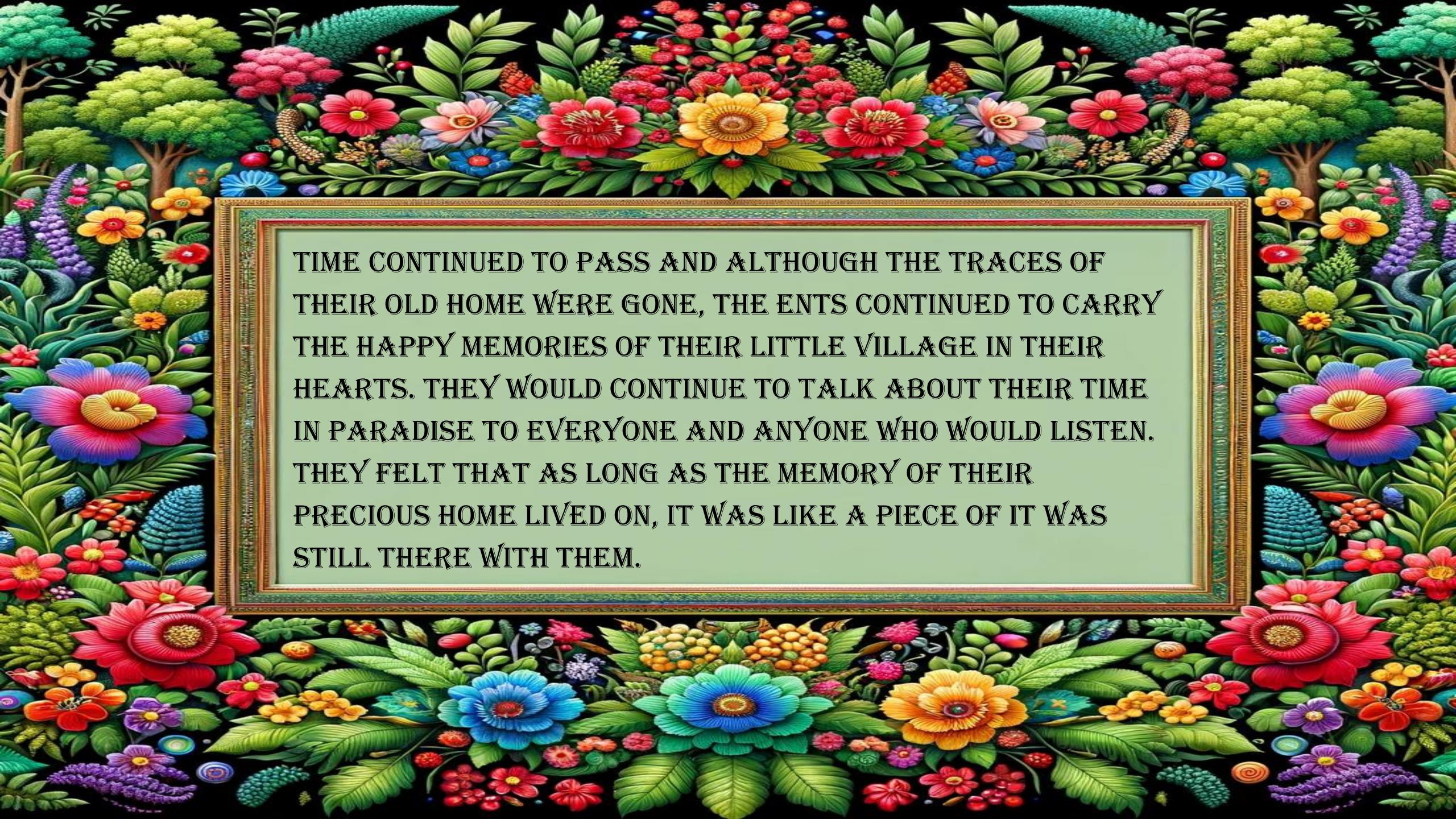
BEFORE THEY KNEW IT, THE SAPLINGS BEGAN TO SPROUT INTO SMALL TREES PAINTED IN THE SAME BEAUTIFUL COLORS OF THEIR BODIES. THE ENTS COULD NOT BELIEVE THEIR EYES. THE PAIN FROM THEIR LOSS WAS STILL THERE, BUT AS THE FOREST STARTED TO GROW, A NEW JOY BEGAN TO GROW ALONGSIDE IT IN THEIR HEARTS.





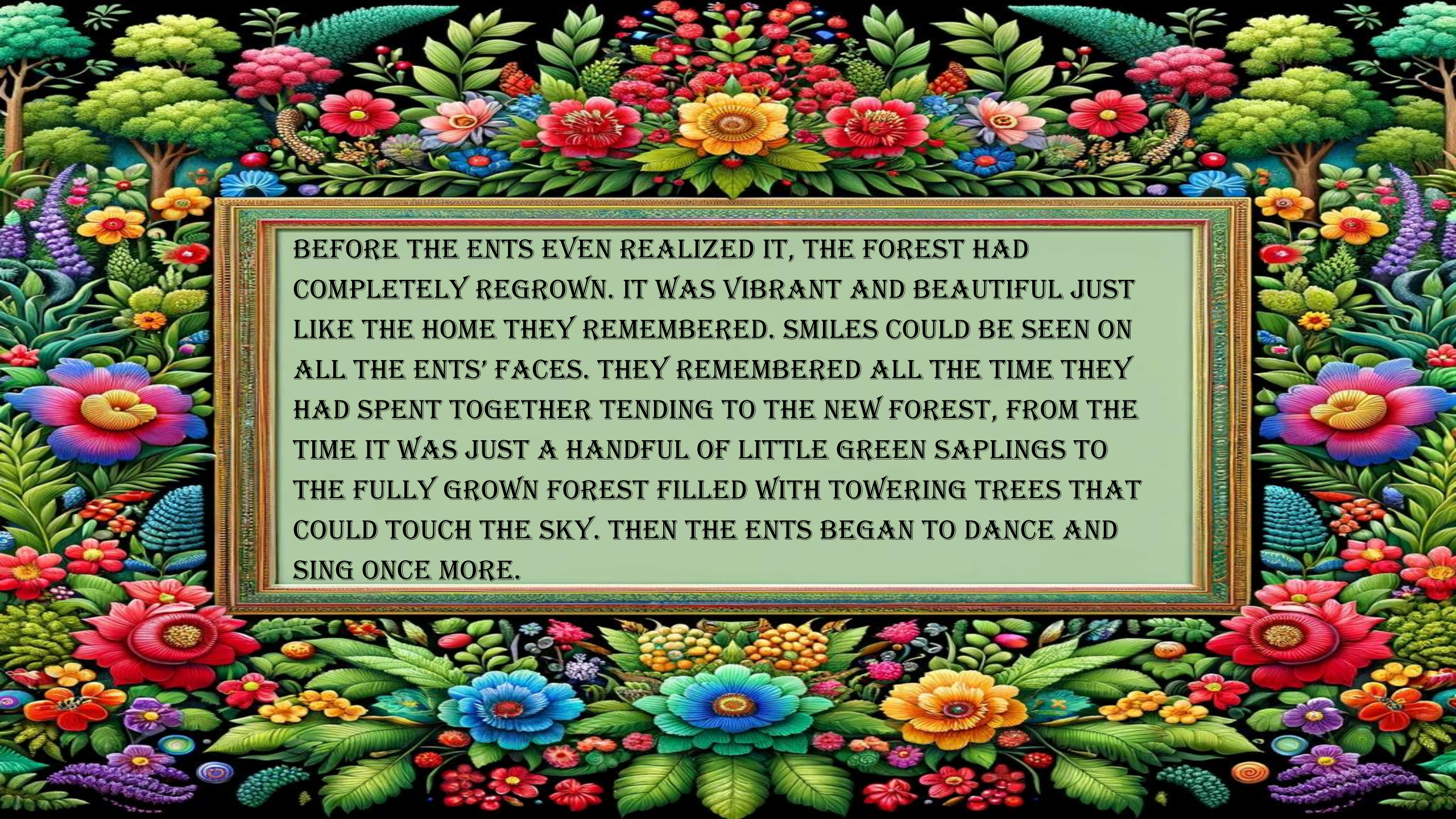
TO HELP THE FOREST, THEY BEGAN CLEARING AWAY THE ASHES THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND. THIS WAS PAINFUL FOR THE ENTS BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ASHES, THEY WERE ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THEIR PRECIOUS HOME. HOWEVER, THEY KNEW THEY HAD TO DO THIS IF THEY WANTED THESE NEW YOUNG TREES TO CONTINUE TO GROW. THEY COULD NOT LEAVE THE FOREST AS IT WAS. THE NEW SAPLINGS NEEDED THE ENTS' HELP TO CONTINUE TO GROW, AND LIFE WOULD NOT WAIT FOR THE ENTS UNTIL THEIR PAIN FULLY HEALED.



The image is a highly detailed and colorful illustration of a garden. It features a wide variety of flowers, including large red and pink blossoms, yellow daisies, blue and purple flowers, and clusters of small red berries. The foliage is dense and green, with various leaf shapes and textures. In the background, there are stylized trees with green canopies. A central rectangular text box with a gold border and a light green background contains the main text. The overall style is reminiscent of a classic storybook illustration or a detailed tapestry.

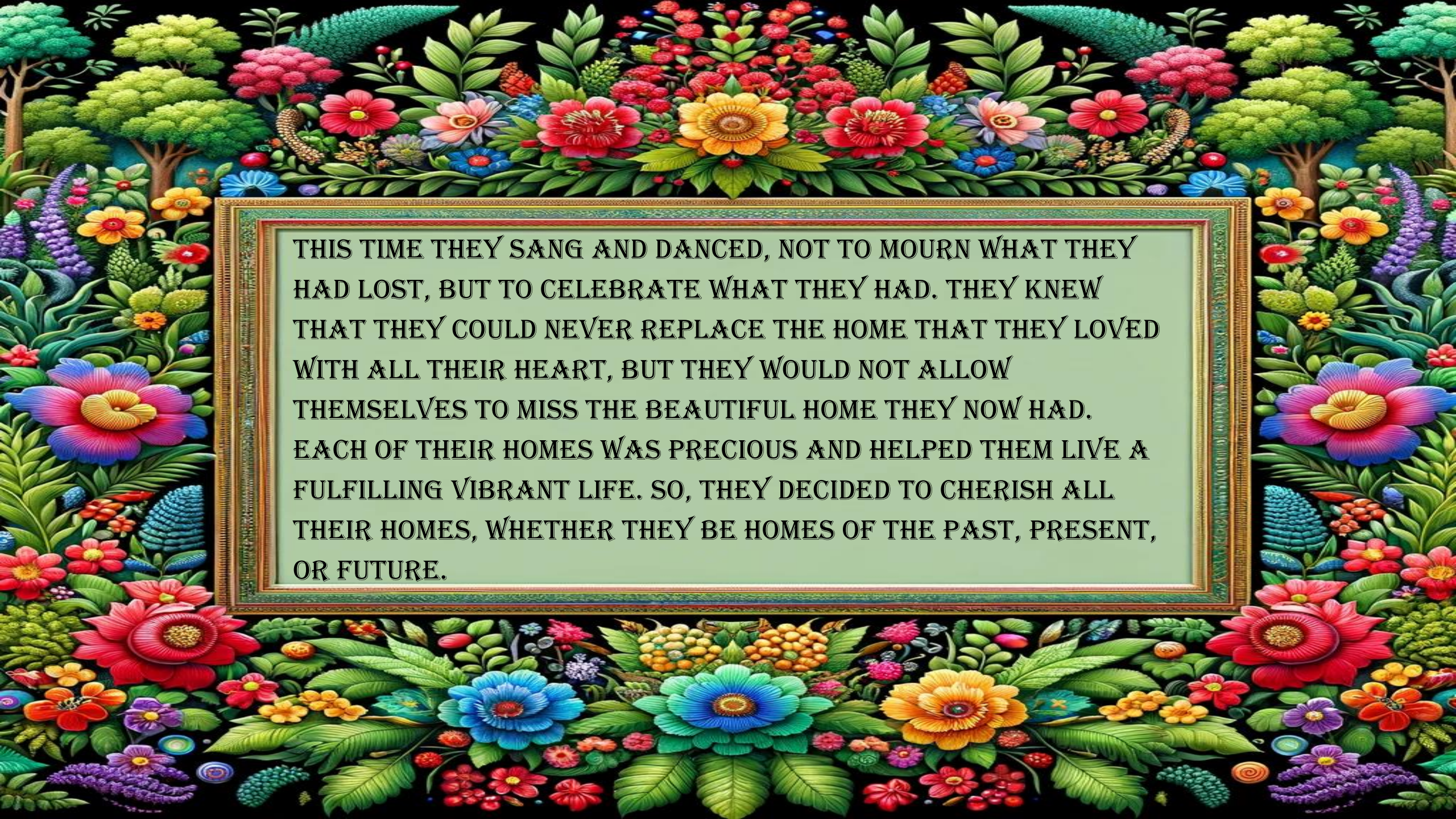
TIME CONTINUED TO PASS AND ALTHOUGH THE TRACES OF THEIR OLD HOME WERE GONE, THE ENTS CONTINUED TO CARRY THE HAPPY MEMORIES OF THEIR LITTLE VILLAGE IN THEIR HEARTS. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT THEIR TIME IN PARADISE TO EVERYONE AND ANYONE WHO WOULD LISTEN. THEY FELT THAT AS LONG AS THE MEMORY OF THEIR PRECIOUS HOME LIVED ON, IT WAS LIKE A PIECE OF IT WAS STILL THERE WITH THEM.





BEFORE THE ENTS EVEN REALIZED IT, THE FOREST HAD COMPLETELY REGROWN. IT WAS VIBRANT AND BEAUTIFUL JUST LIKE THE HOME THEY REMEMBERED. SMILES COULD BE SEEN ON ALL THE ENTS' FACES. THEY REMEMBERED ALL THE TIME THEY HAD SPENT TOGETHER TENDING TO THE NEW FOREST, FROM THE TIME IT WAS JUST A HANDFUL OF LITTLE GREEN SAPLINGS TO THE FULLY GROWN FOREST FILLED WITH TOWERING TREES THAT COULD TOUCH THE SKY. THEN THE ENTS BEGAN TO DANCE AND SING ONCE MORE.





THIS TIME THEY SANG AND DANCED, NOT TO MOURN WHAT THEY HAD LOST, BUT TO CELEBRATE WHAT THEY HAD. THEY KNEW THAT THEY COULD NEVER REPLACE THE HOME THAT THEY LOVED WITH ALL THEIR HEART, BUT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO MISS THE BEAUTIFUL HOME THEY NOW HAD. EACH OF THEIR HOMES WAS PRECIOUS AND HELPED THEM LIVE A FULFILLING VIBRANT LIFE. SO, THEY DECIDED TO CHERISH ALL THEIR HOMES, WHETHER THEY BE HOMES OF THE PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE.





THE END