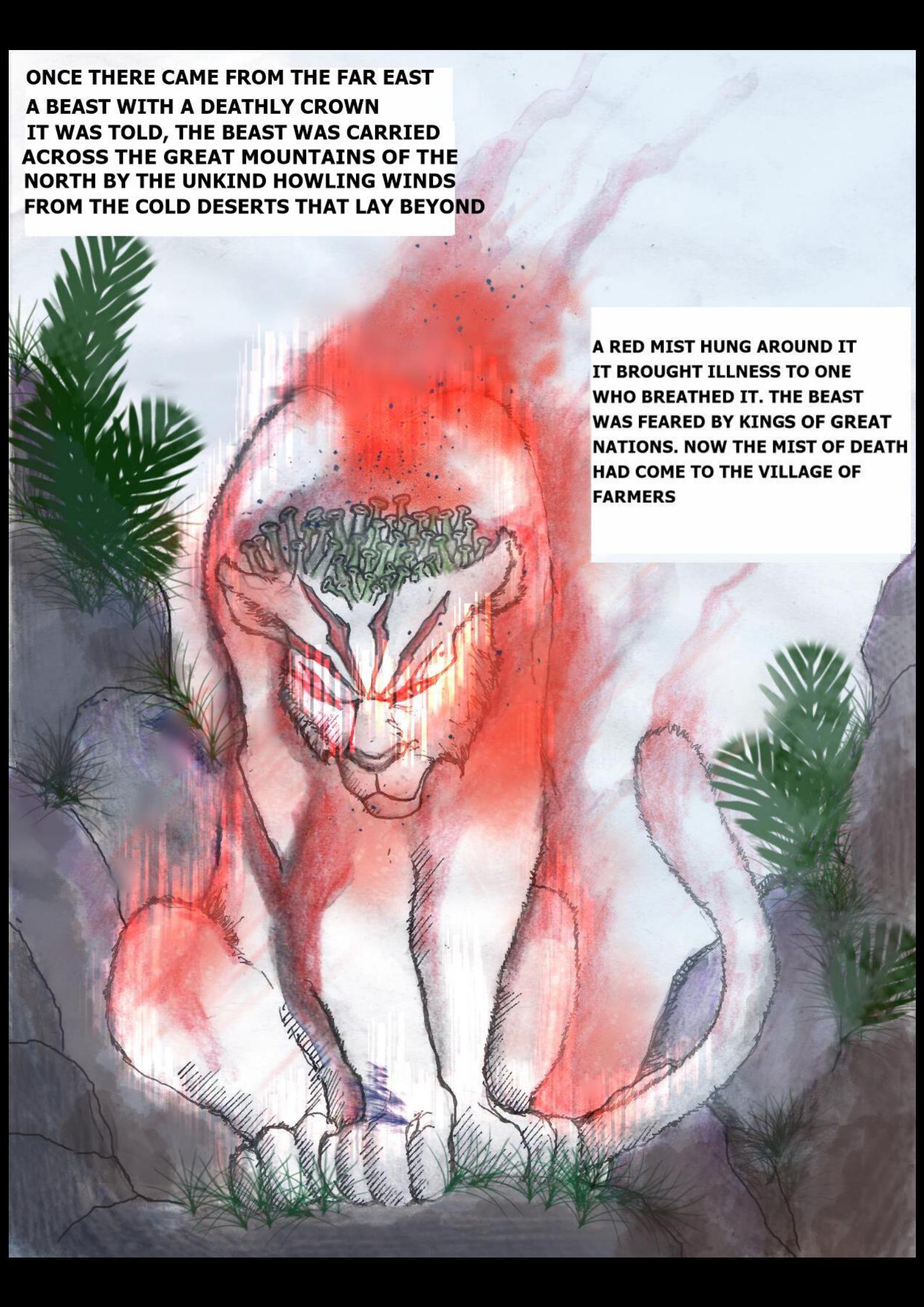
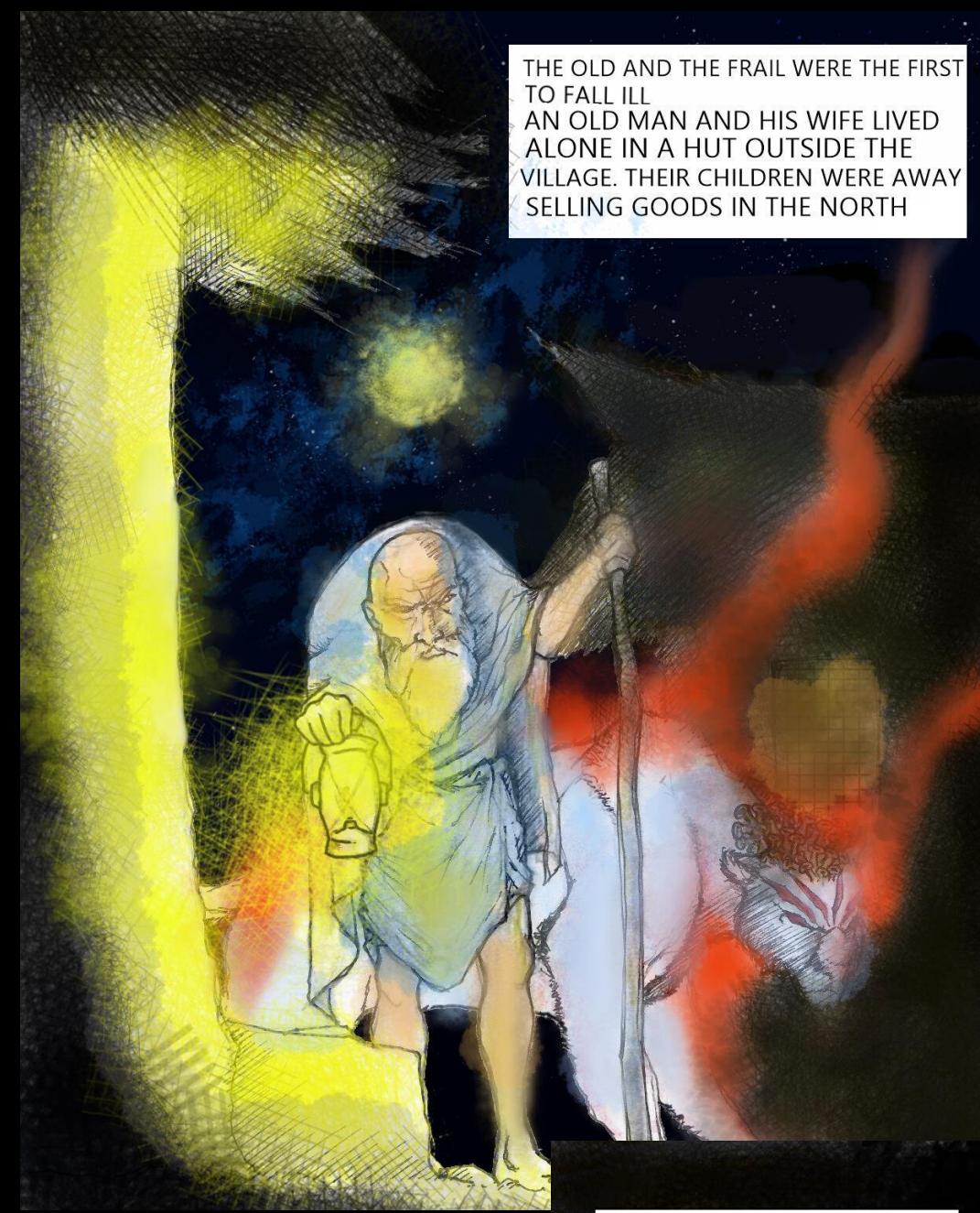


**ONCE THERE CAME FROM THE FAR EAST  
A BEAST WITH A DEATHLY CROWN  
IT WAS TOLD, THE BEAST WAS CARRIED  
ACROSS THE GREAT MOUNTAINS OF THE  
NORTH BY THE UNKIND HOWLING WINDS  
FROM THE COLD DESERTS THAT LAY BEYOND**



**A RED MIST HUNG AROUND IT  
IT BROUGHT ILLNESS TO ONE  
WHO BREATHED IT. THE BEAST  
WAS FEARED BY KINGS OF GREAT  
NATIONS. NOW THE MIST OF DEATH  
HAD COME TO THE VILLAGE OF  
FARMERS**



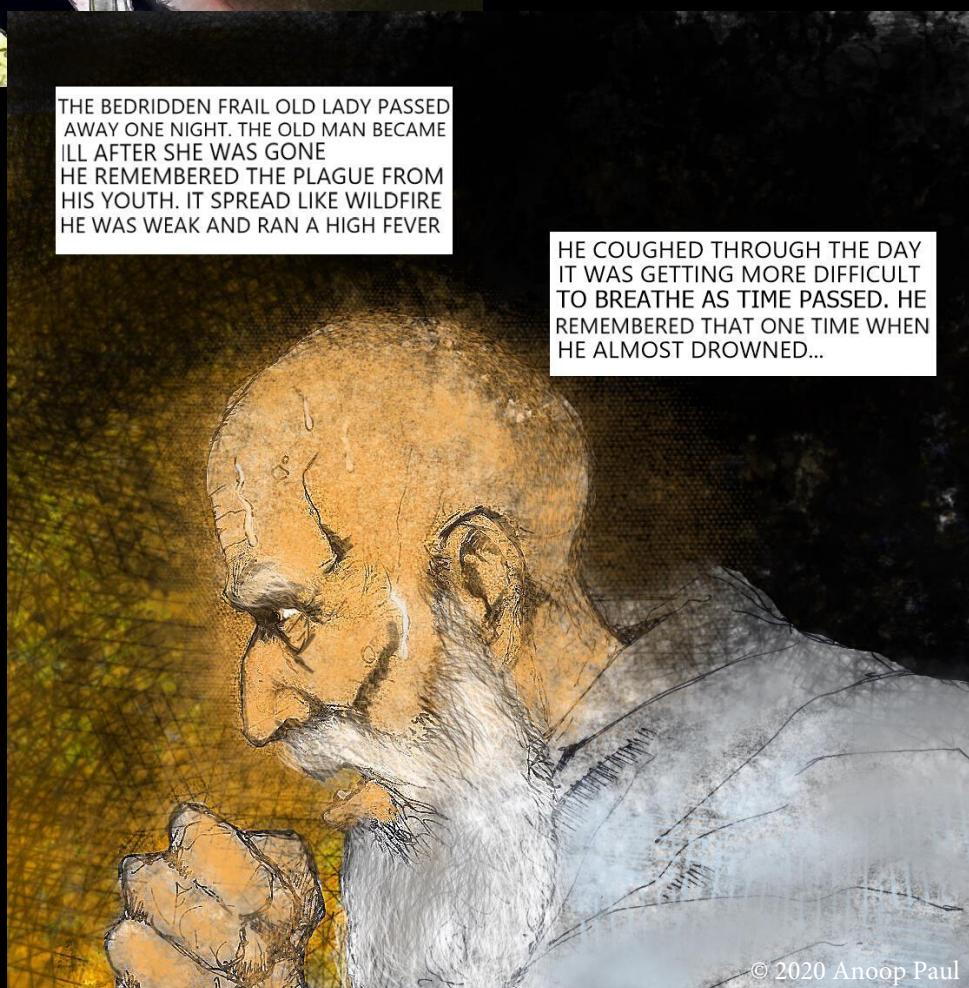
THE OLD AND THE FRAIL WERE THE FIRST TO FALL ILL  
AN OLD MAN AND HIS WIFE LIVED ALONE IN A HUT OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE. THEIR CHILDREN WERE AWAY SELLING GOODS IN THE NORTH

A CHILDREN'S FABLE ABOUT THE DREADED CORONA VIRUS WHICH IS PERSONIFIED AS A FIERCE BEAST

THIS SHORT STORY TELLS US HOW ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TASKS BY FOLLOWING SIMPLE RULES AND THEIR TRIUMPH AGAINST GREAT ODDS IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

ART  
ANOOP PAUL

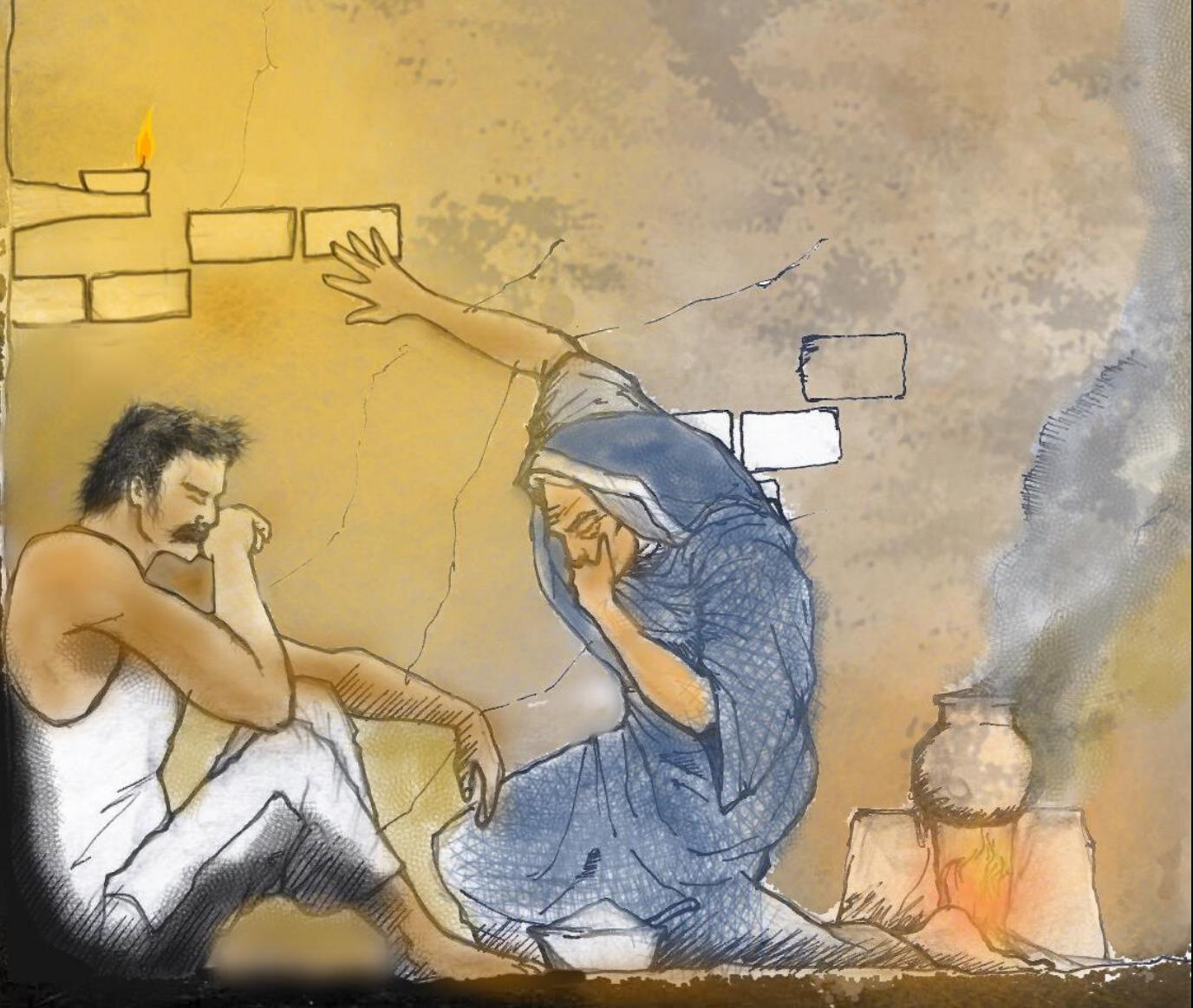
# THE TALE OF THE CORONA BEAST



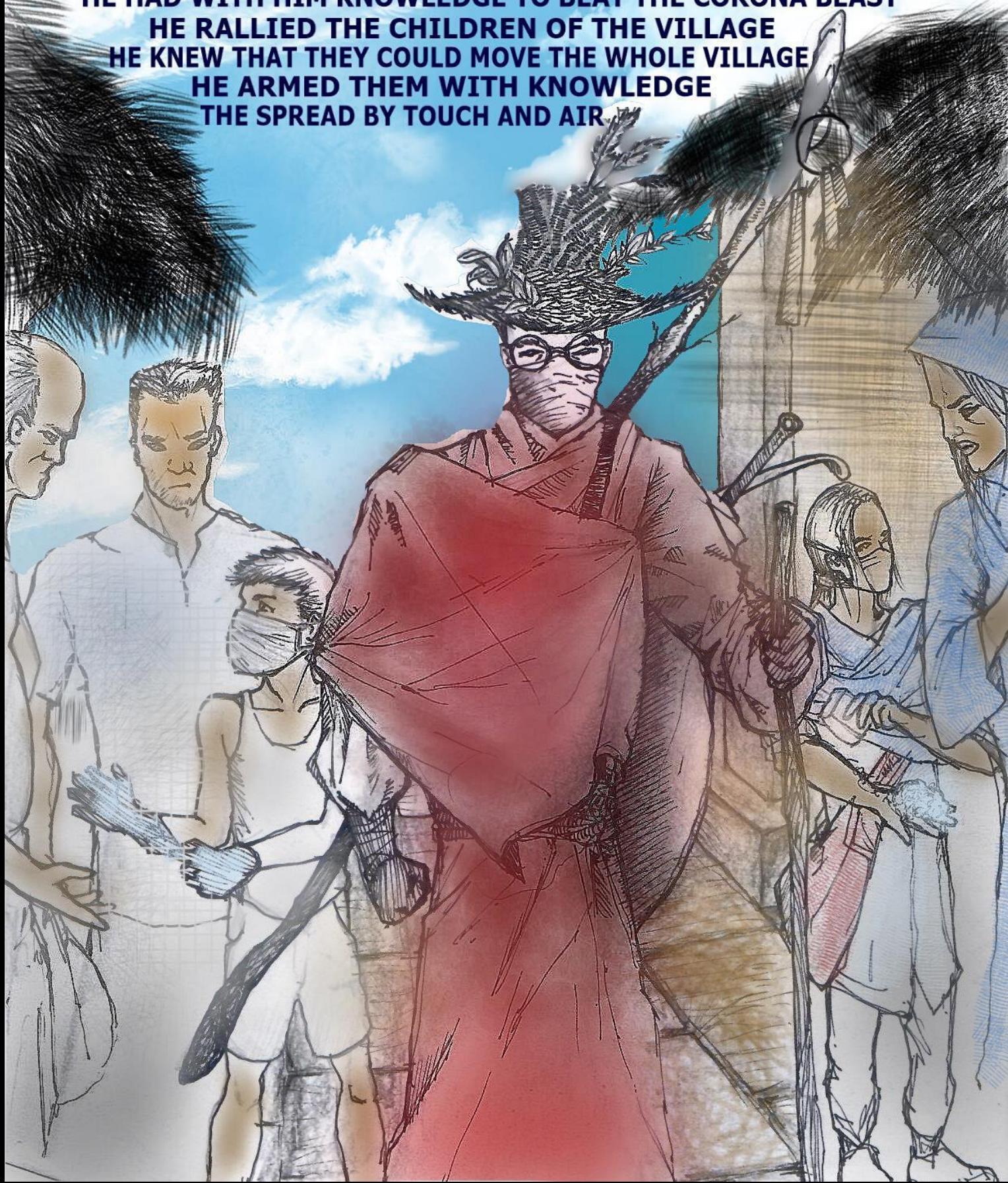
THE BEDRIDDEN FRAIL OLD LADY PASSED AWAY ONE NIGHT. THE OLD MAN BECAME ILL AFTER SHE WAS GONE HE REMEMBERED THE PLAGUE FROM HIS YOUTH. IT SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE HE WAS WEAK AND RAN A HIGH FEVER

HE COUGHED THROUGH THE DAY IT WAS GETTING MORE DIFFICULT TO BREATHE AS TIME PASSED. HE REMEMBERED THAT ONE TIME WHEN HE ALMOST DROWNED...

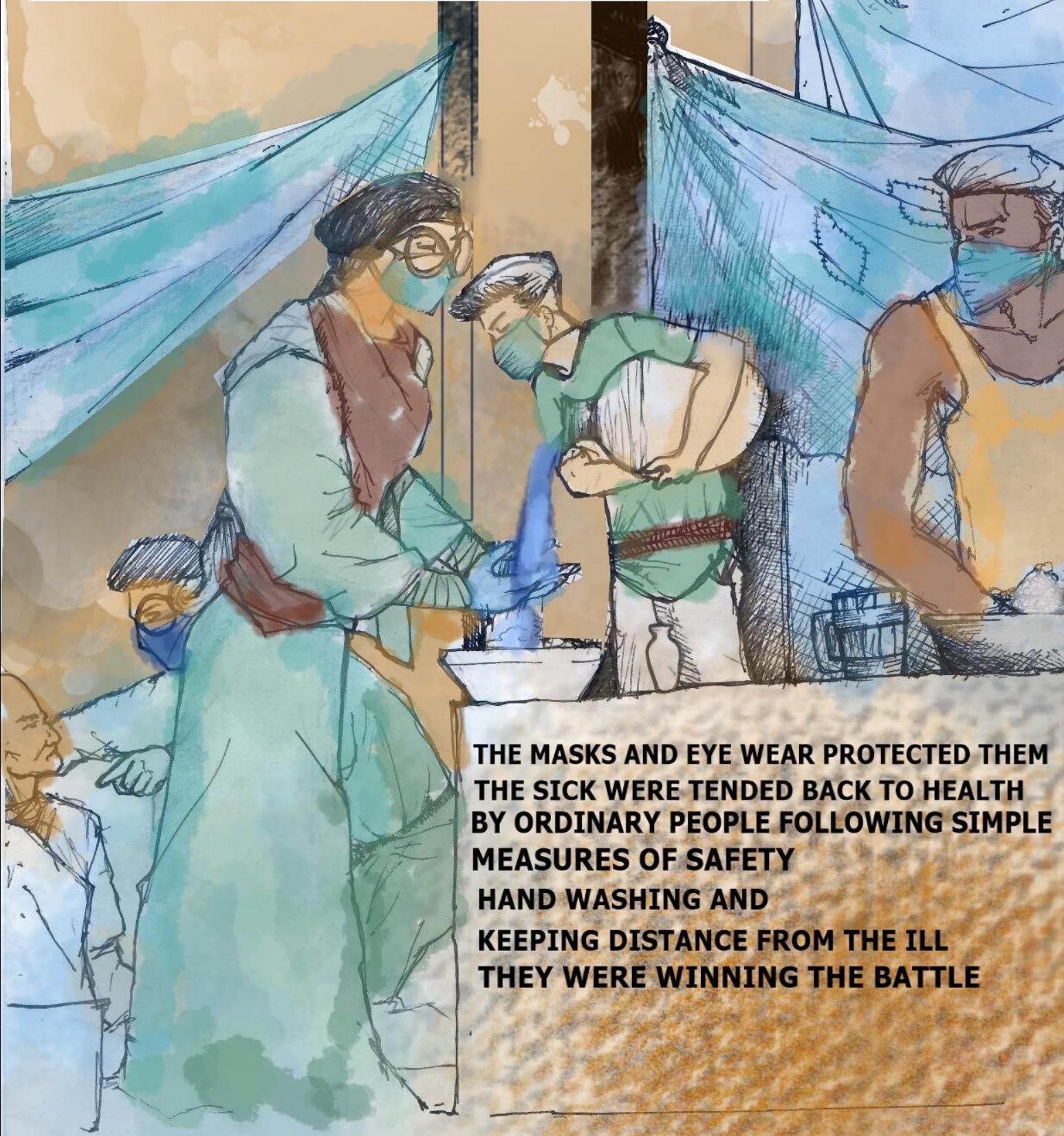
**THERE WAS A BOY WHO BROUGHT FOOD FOR THE OLD MAN  
HE WAS WITH THE OLD MAN WHEN THE FEVER RAN  
HE WAS THE NEXT TO FALL ILL. HE COUGHED THROUGH THE DAY  
THE BOY LIVED IN A HUT AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE  
THE SMALL HUT WAS HOME TO A FAMILY OF SEVEN  
THE BOY'S GRANDMOTHER WAS NEXT. ONE DAY AS SHE COOKED  
SHE HAD A FIT OF COUGH AND FELL DOWN  
SOON THE REST OF THE FAMILY FOLLOWED  
THE FEVER SPREAD TO THE NEIGHBOURING HOUSES  
TAKING ILL THE YOUNG AND THE OLD**



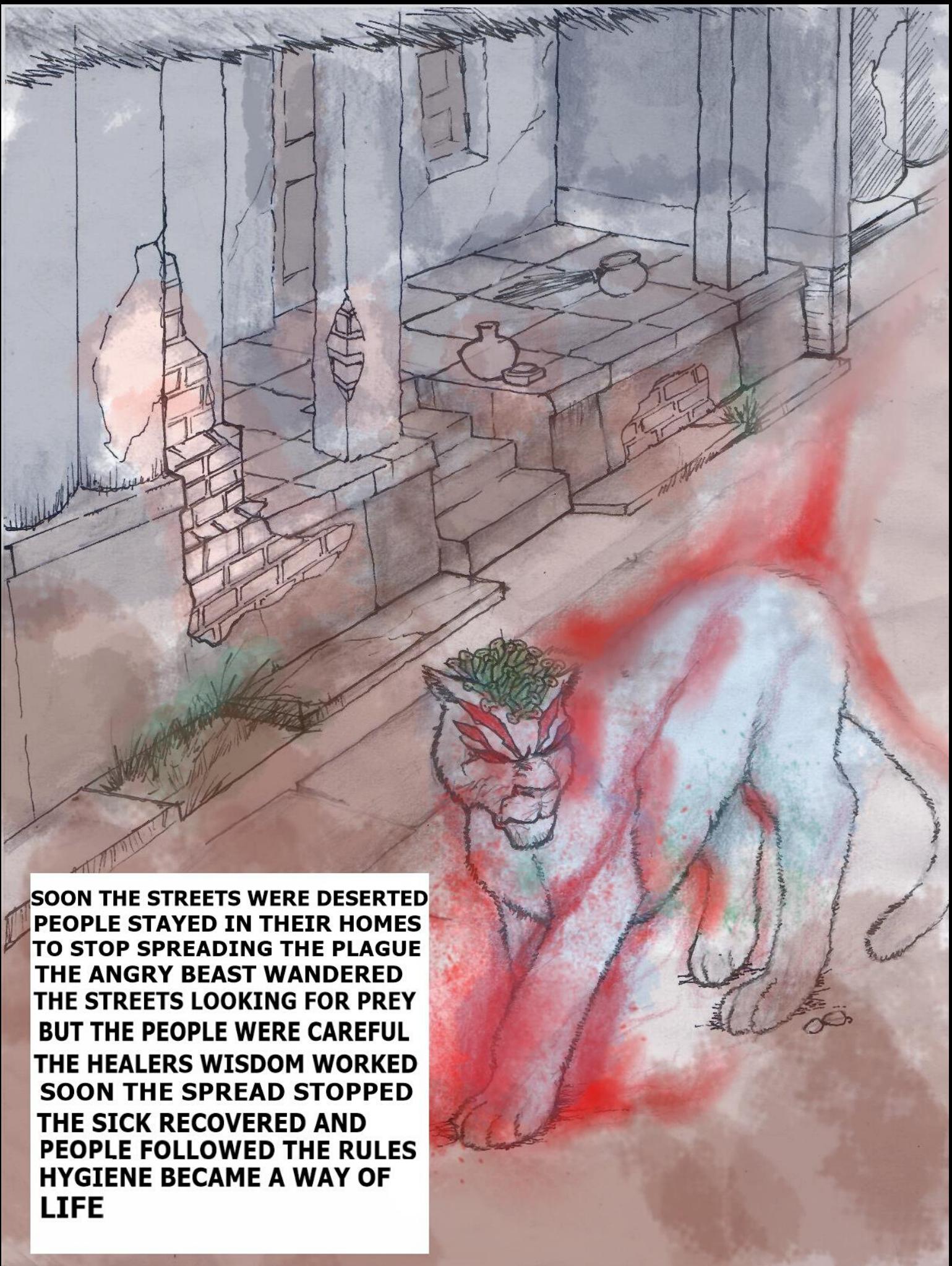
WORD ABOUT THE NEW PLAGUE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE  
THIS BROUGHT A WISE MAN WHO WAS A HEALER  
HE WAS A MONK FROM THE NORTH WHO TRAVELED ALONE  
HE LOST EVERYTHING PRECIOUS TO HIM TO THE PLAGUE BUT NOW  
HE HAD WITH HIM KNOWLEDGE TO BEAT THE CORONA BEAST  
HE RALLIED THE CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE  
HE KNEW THAT THEY COULD MOVE THE WHOLE VILLAGE  
HE ARMED THEM WITH KNOWLEDGE  
THE SPREAD BY TOUCH AND AIR



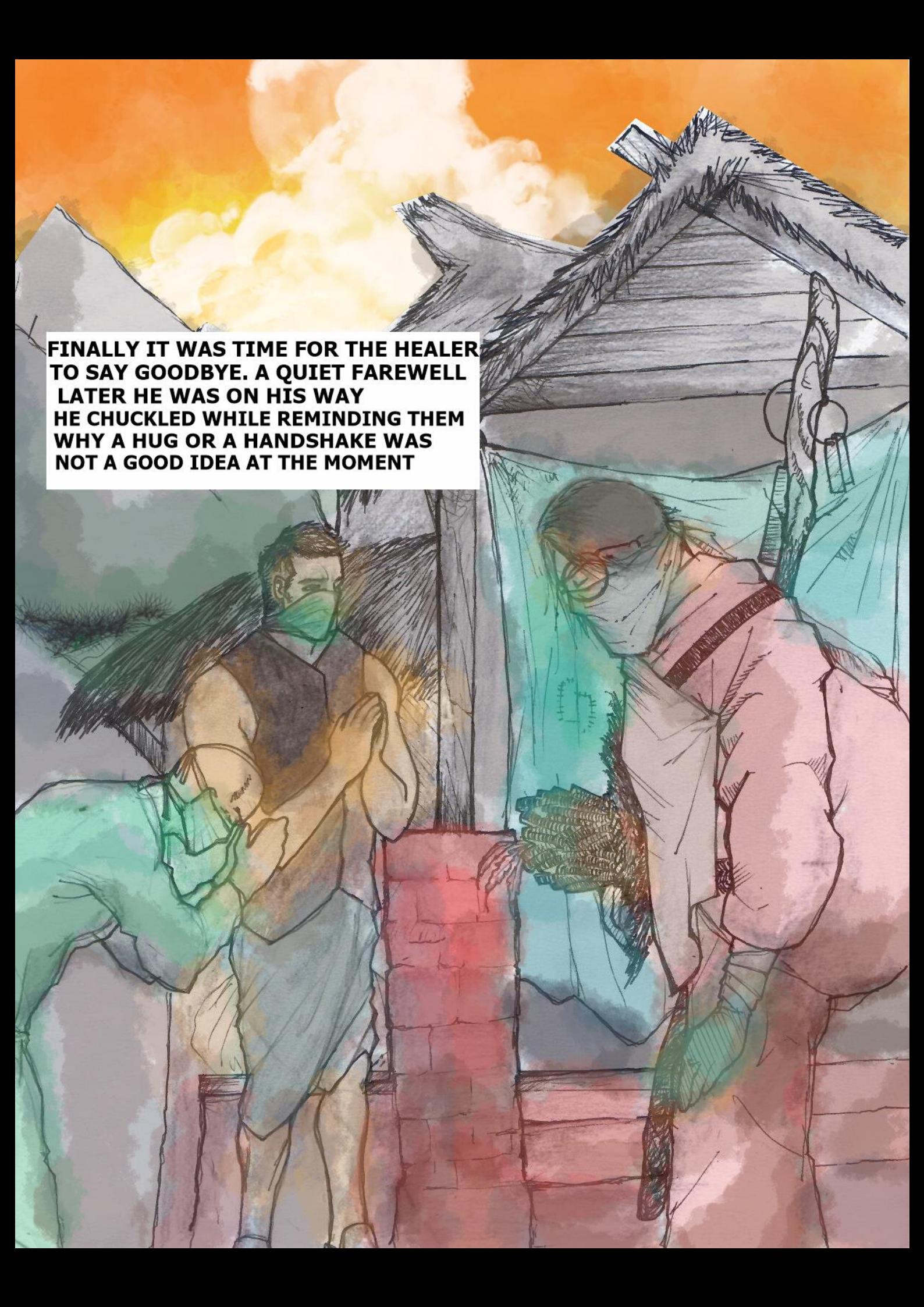
**THE WORD SPREAD FAST. THE USE OF MASKS AND THE "SOAP"  
CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE PLAGUE  
THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK WERE ISOLATED IN  
NEWLY BUILT HUTS. THE PEOPLE CHOSEN BY THE  
HEALER TO TAKE CARE OF THE SICK WORE LONG GARMENTS**



**THE MASKS AND EYE WEAR PROTECTED THEM  
THE SICK WERE TENDED BACK TO HEALTH  
BY ORDINARY PEOPLE FOLLOWING SIMPLE  
MEASURES OF SAFETY  
HAND WASHING AND  
KEEPING DISTANCE FROM THE ILL  
THEY WERE WINNING THE BATTLE**

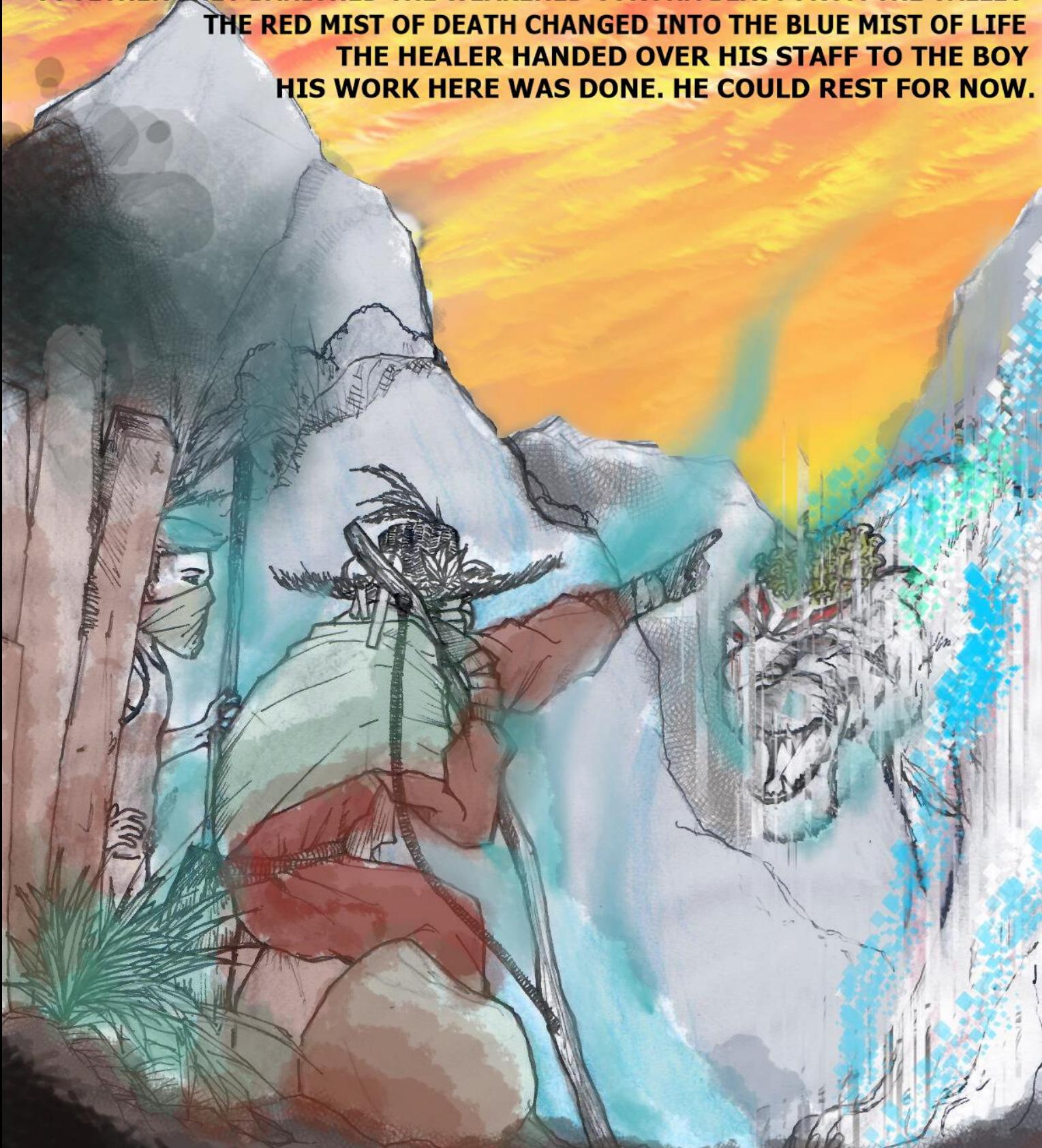


**SOON THE STREETS WERE DESERTED  
PEOPLE STAYED IN THEIR HOMES  
TO STOP SPREADING THE PLAGUE  
THE ANGRY BEAST WANDERED  
THE STREETS LOOKING FOR PREY  
BUT THE PEOPLE WERE CAREFUL  
THE HEALERS WISDOM WORKED  
SOON THE SPREAD STOPPED  
THE SICK RECOVERED AND  
PEOPLE FOLLOWED THE RULES  
HYGIENE BECAME A WAY OF  
LIFE**



**FINALLY IT WAS TIME FOR THE HEALER  
TO SAY GOODBYE. A QUIET FAREWELL  
LATER HE WAS ON HIS WAY  
HE CHUCKLED WHILE REMINDING THEM  
WHY A HUG OR A HANDSHAKE WAS  
NOT A GOOD IDEA AT THE MOMENT**

THE HEALER TOOK THE BOY TO THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE  
HE HAD PASSED ON EVERYTHING HE KNEW.  
TOGETHER THEY BANISHED THE WEAKENED CORONA BEAST FROM THE VALLEY  
THE RED MIST OF DEATH CHANGED INTO THE BLUE MIST OF LIFE  
THE HEALER HANDED OVER HIS STAFF TO THE BOY  
HIS WORK HERE WAS DONE. HE COULD REST FOR NOW.



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T H E E N D