

LEVELED Book • P

ACROPOLIS ADVENTURE



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Written by Troy Wolff
Illustrated by Marcy Ramsey

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DIMITRI THE GREEK

“You must be Brady.”

Surprised, Brady stopped and looked around the cafe.

“Over here, young man,” the voice continued.

“Are you Dimitri?” Brady asked.

“Yes,” he answered.

Dimitri’s head was completely bald and tanned by years in the sun. His eyes were bright and welcoming. Even though the man was sitting down, Brady could tell he was tall.

Brady was on vacation with his parents in Greece. They had arranged for him to meet Dimitri, an old family friend, while they went to the **Athens** National Museum.

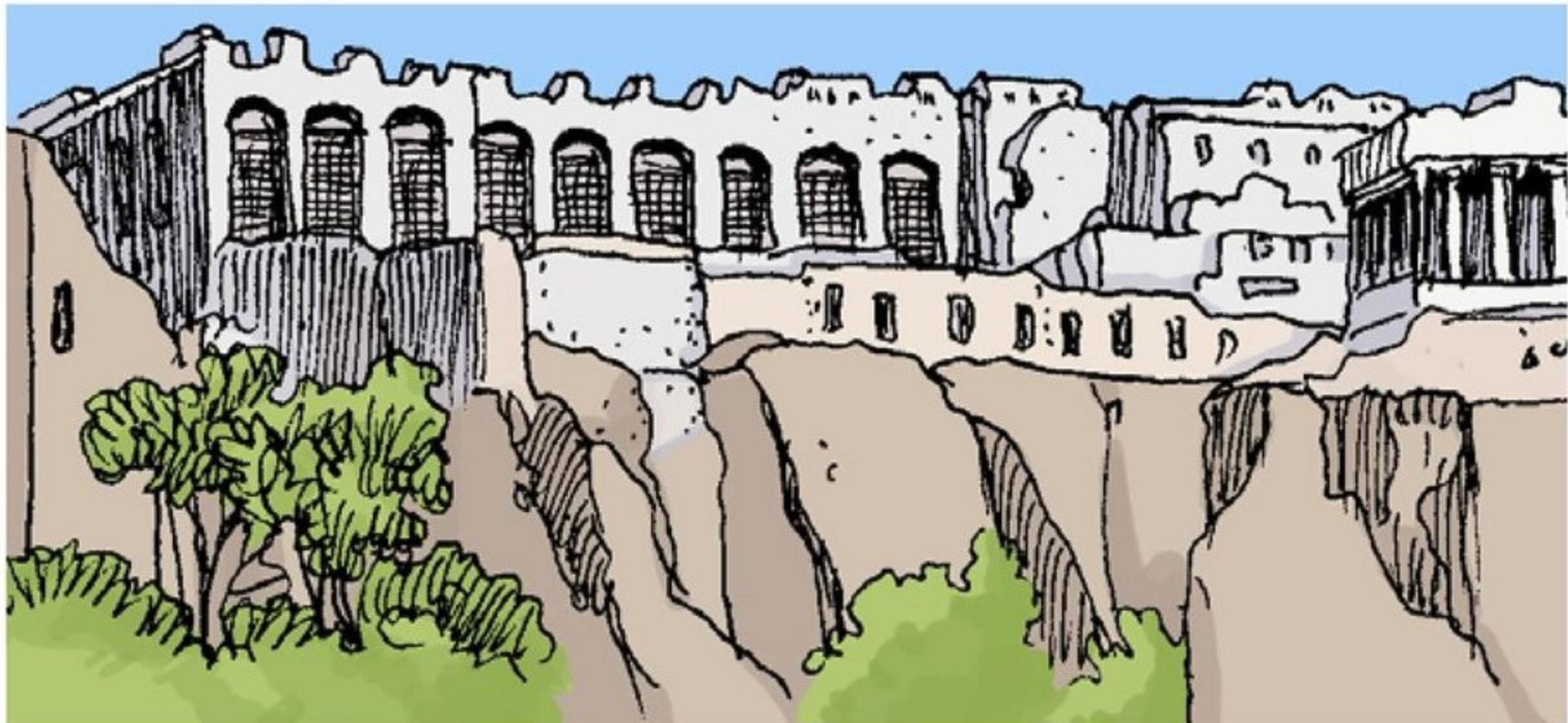
“So, you know my dad?” Brady asked.

“Yes. And I’m happy to answer any questions you have about Greece.”

“Well, I don’t have many questions,” Brady answered with a shrug of his shoulders. “All this **ancient** history and learning about other countries is kind of boring.”

“Boring?” Dimitri boomed. “This is one of the most exciting cities in the world.”

“We’ll see about that,” said Brady, not really interested.

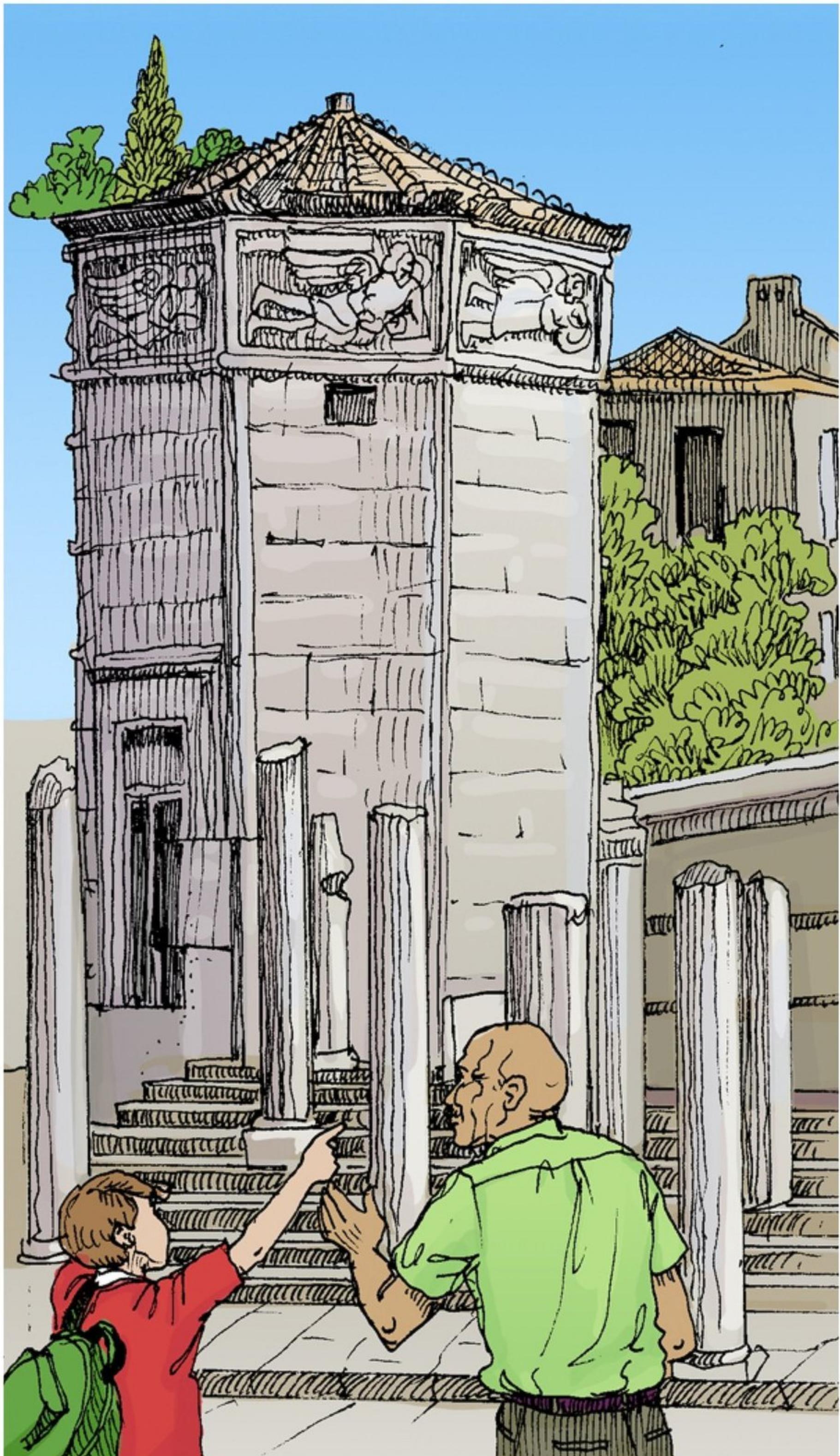


WINDING AROUND THE ACROPOLIS

Dimitri and Brady left the cafe. The pair walked toward the steep-sided hill called the **Acropolis**, which is Greece's most famous **landmark**.

"What are we doing here?" Brady protested. Instead of answering, Dimitri led Brady toward a stone tower off to their left. It was a two-story-high marble tower with eight sides. At the top of each of the eight flat sides was a carved figure.

"Brady, tell me what you see," Dimitri said, pointing to the tower.



“Um, I guess I see a tower,” Brady answered.

“That’s obvious,” Dimitri smiled. “Look closer and tell me what you see.”

Brady shaded his eyes and focused. He noticed several small metal rods rusted with age. They poked out from the flat sides of the tower at odd angles. Each rod rose out from one of the carved figures. “Dimitri, what are those rods for?” Brady asked.

“This landmark is called the Tower of the Winds. Brady, look more closely at the carvings. Do you see the straight lines cutting through the carved figures?”

“Yes,” Brady answered.

“Do you know what a sundial is?”
Dimitri asked.

“Yeah,” Brady answered. “It tells time by the shadow created by the Sun, right?”



“Yes. This tower does indeed tell time, but it’s also a calendar,” said Dimitri.

“I don’t understand,” Brady said.

“It’s quite brilliant, really,” Dimitri continued. “The Sun changes position in the sky throughout the year. When hit by the shadow cast by the rod, the lines informed citizens of Athens of the exact time of day. They also revealed the exact time of year.”

"That's kind of cool," Brady answered.

"Speaking of time, we better get moving. We have much to see," said Dimitri.



DISCOVERING THE THEATER

Dimitri and Brady soon rejoined the crowds walking around the Acropolis. Suddenly, Brady gasped, "Whoa! What's that?" Stretching up toward the Acropolis stood row after row of stone benches. The benches brightly reflected the midday sun.

“Brady, do you like movies?”

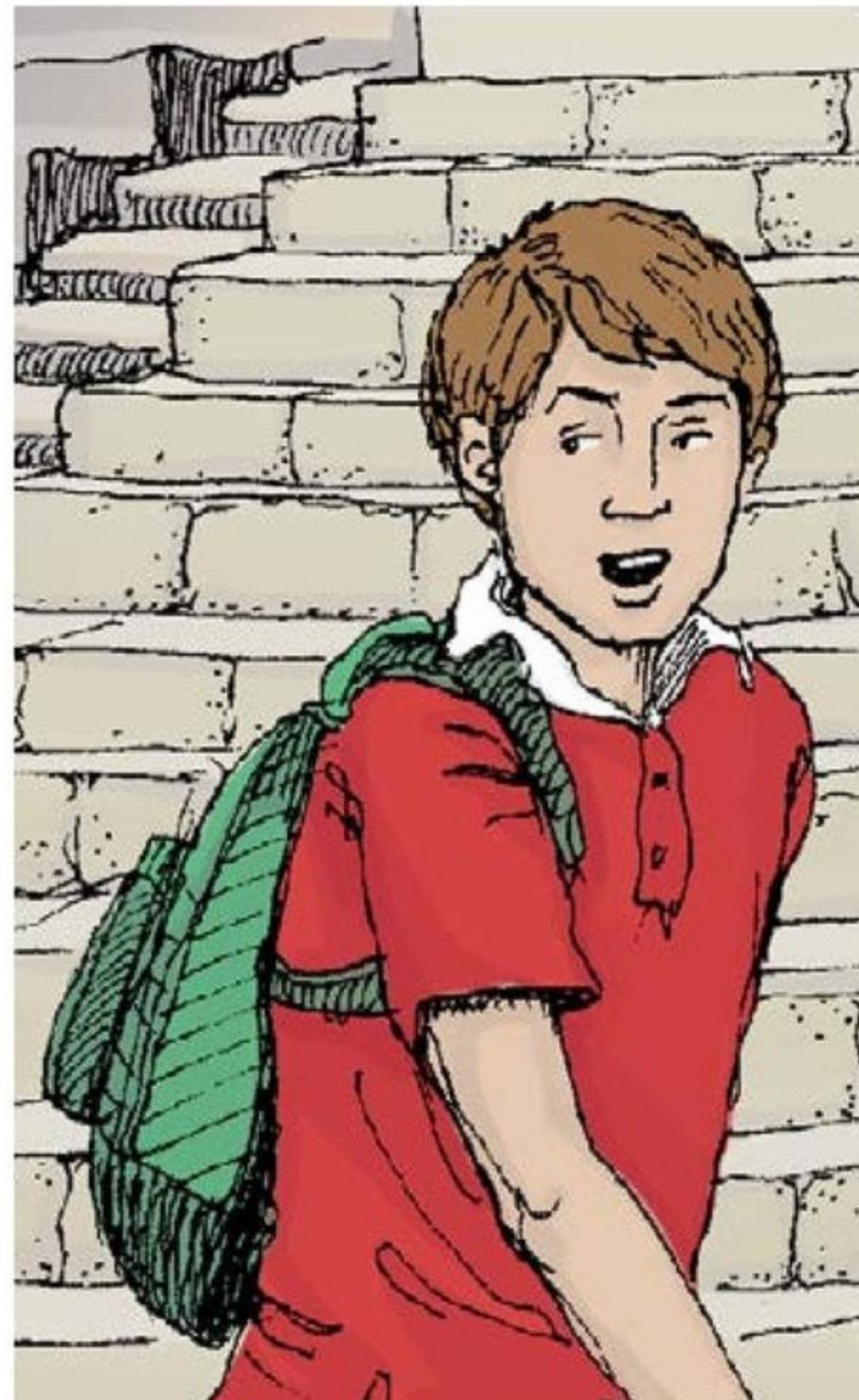
“Yeah, of course,” Brady answered.

“All our ideas of drama and **comedy** began here with **Greek** theater.”

Brady tried to picture the stone theater filled with people.

The actors must have **struggled** to have their lines heard by those seated in the very top rows.

“Dimitri,” Brady asked, “did they have microphones back then?”

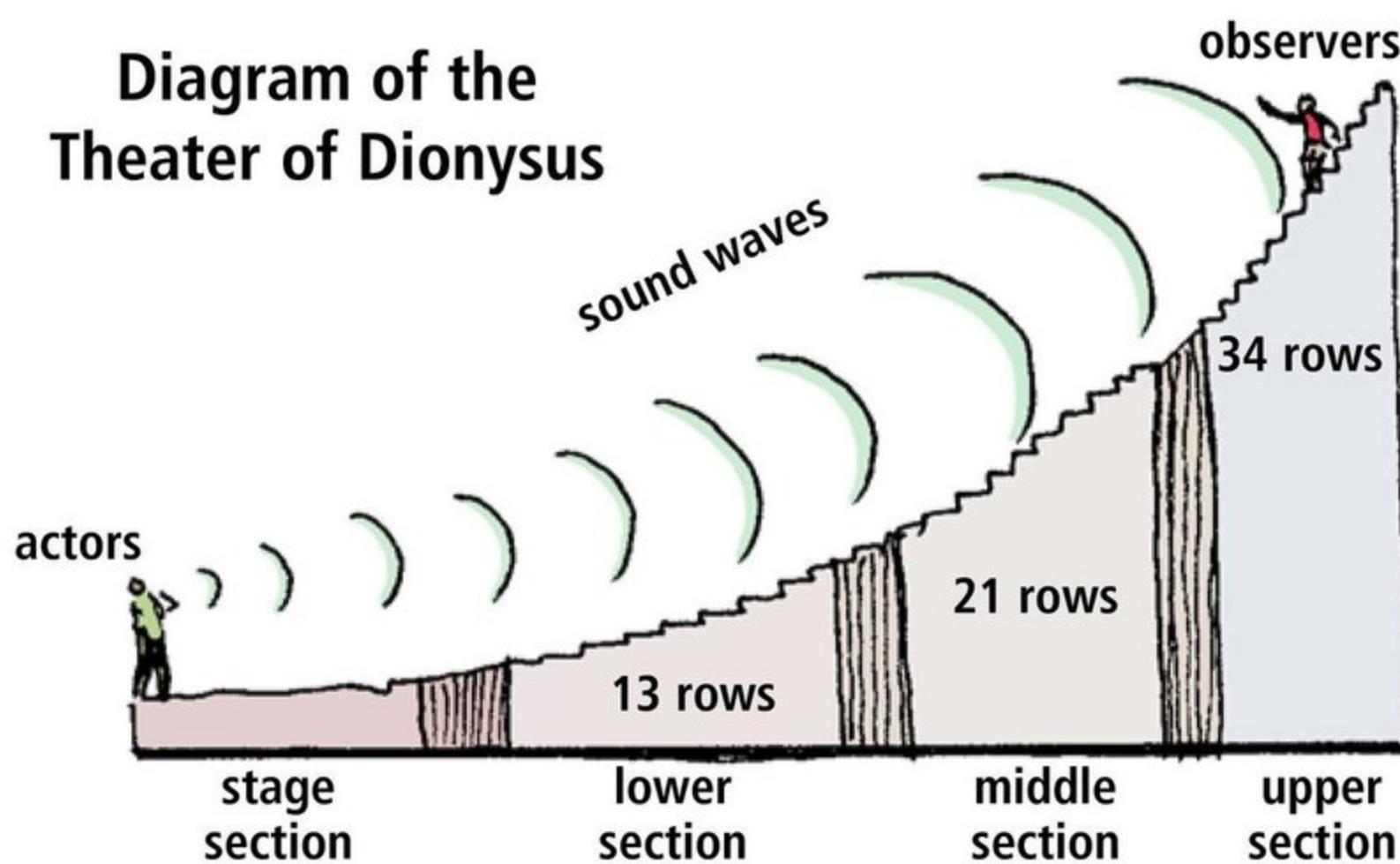


“Brady, it was 400 BC,” Dimitri laughed.

“There were no microphones.”

“Then how could people watching from the top rows hear the actors onstage?”

**Diagram of the
Theater of Dionysus**

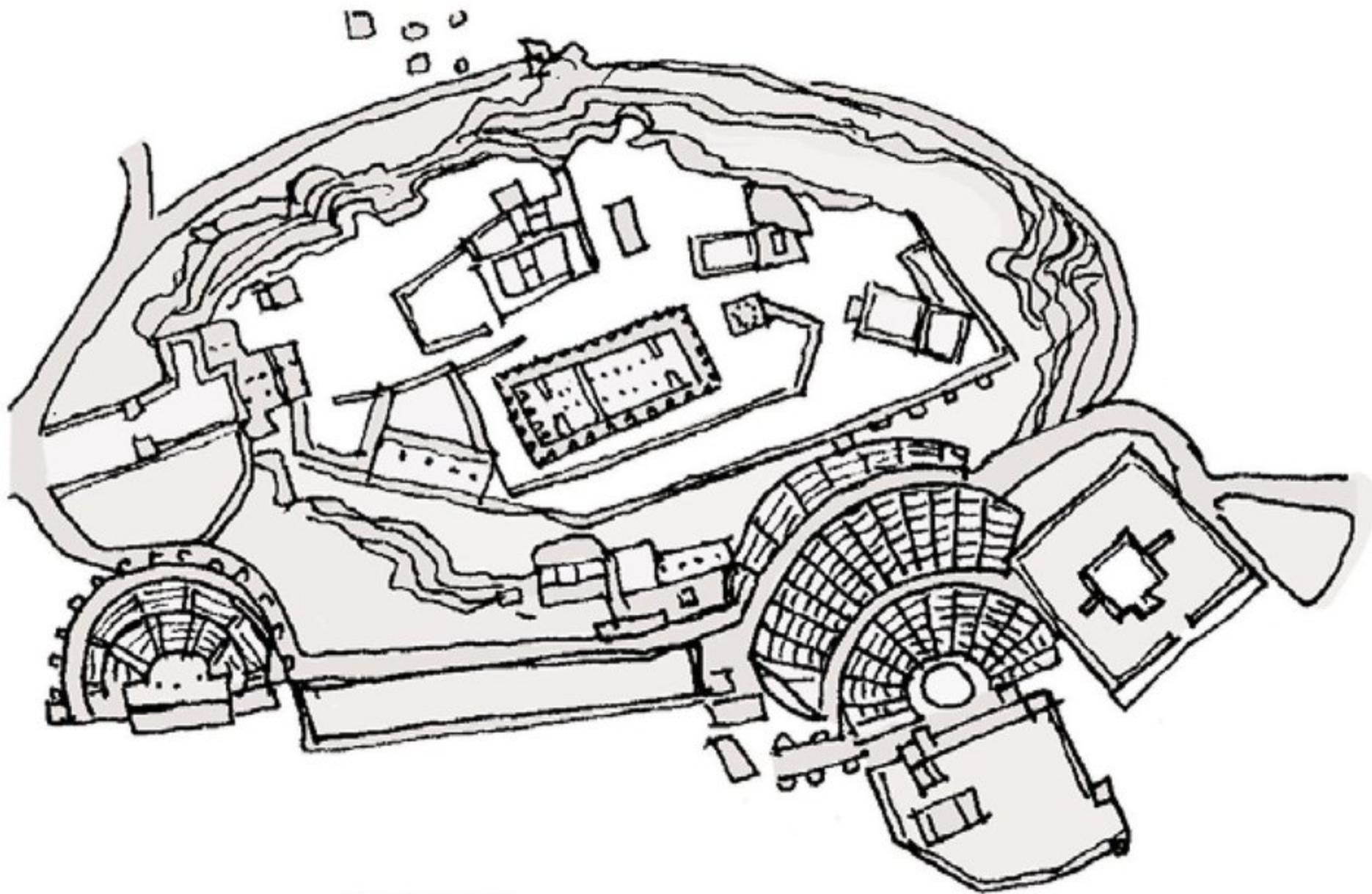


It was all based on mathematics, Dimitri explained. The theater was divided into three equal sections. There was a lower, middle, and upper section. Each section of the theater was tilted at a slightly higher angle than the level below it.

This created a bowl that trapped the sound from the stage. No matter where you sat, the sound was the same.

“I can’t believe things like this could have been built so long ago,” said Brady.

“Well, my friend, just wait. We still have the Acropolis to visit,” Dimitri said.



CLIMBING TO THE TOP

“Dimitri, I don’t know what the big deal is,” Brady said. “We’ve walked all this way to see the Acropolis, but all it looks like is a bunch of broken rocks.”

“Brady, my young friend, be patient,” Dimitri said. “You need to pay more attention to the little details of life. This is an important lesson for you to learn.”

Sure enough, after reaching the top, Brady’s jaw dropped open at the sight before him.

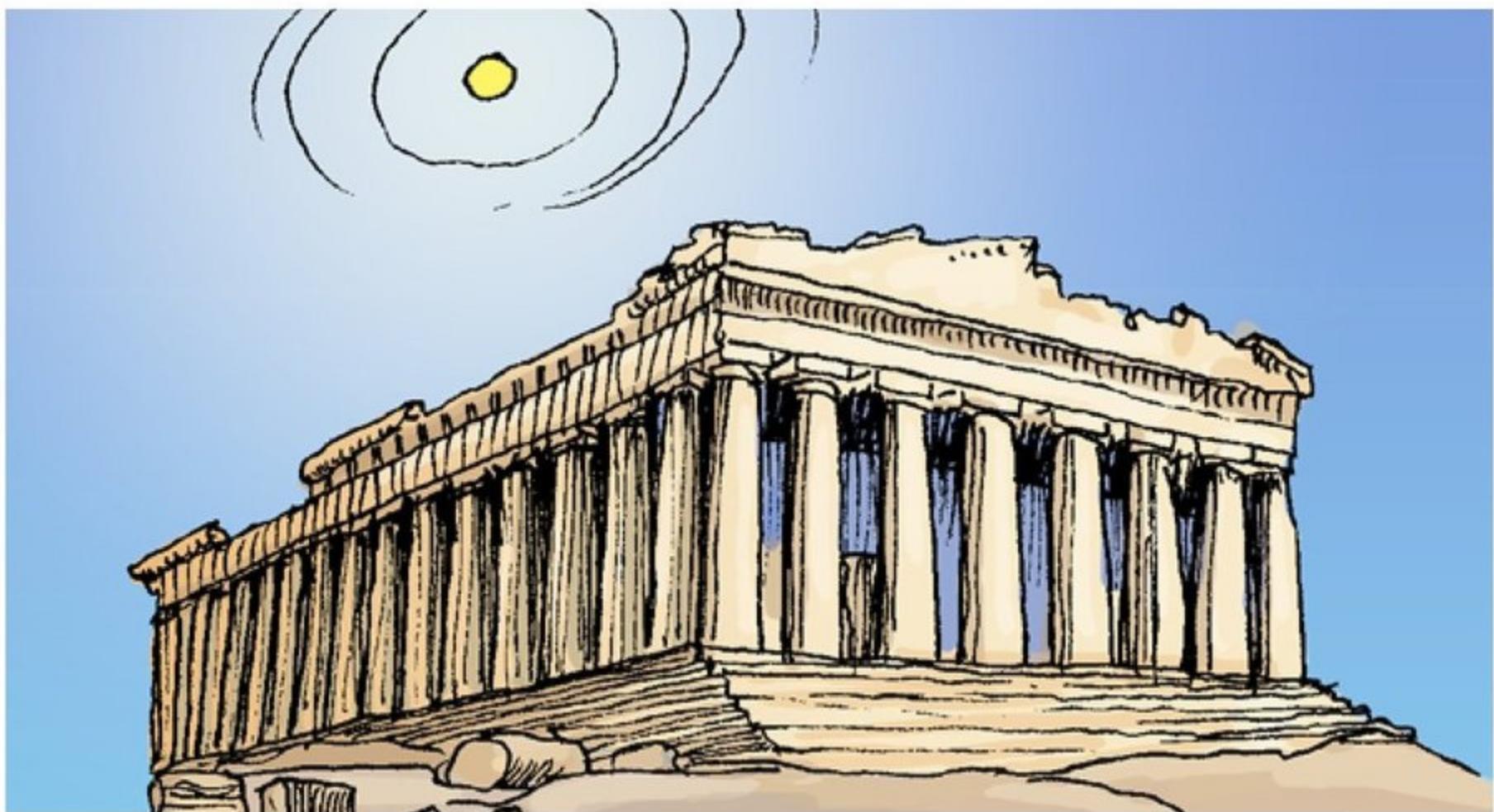
On the highest point of the Acropolis hill stood a stone temple with massive **columns** of marble. It was as big as a modern football stadium, and it was decorated with carved figures. The entire building seemed to glow in the late afternoon light.



Brady's thoughts spun as he pictured this temple being built by ancient people.

"So, was it worth the climb?" Dimitri asked playfully.

"Yes, it's awesome," Brady said.



As the Sun began to set, Brady thought about everything he'd seen.

"You are right, Dimitri. I need to pay more attention to the details of life. I would have missed many of these sights if I had been by myself. Thank you for opening my eyes."

"You don't need to thank me, my friend," Dimitri answered. He put a hand on Brady's shoulder and joined him in **admiring** the sunset. In the fading light, Brady thought to himself that he would leave Greece a different person than he was when he arrived.

GLOSSARY

Acropolis (<i>n.</i>)	a series of fortified structures built on the top of a hill in ancient Athens (p. 6)
admiring (<i>v.</i>)	respecting or approving a person or a quality (p. 15)
ancient (<i>adj.</i>)	from a very long time ago (p. 5)
Athens (<i>n.</i>)	the capital of Greece (p. 5)
columns (<i>n.</i>)	tall, cylindrical posts used as supports and decoration for buildings (p. 14)
comedy (<i>n.</i>)	a type of entertainment with funny characters and a happy ending (p. 11)
Greek (<i>adj.</i>)	of or relating to the country of Greece and its people (p. 11)
landmark (<i>n.</i>)	a building or site that is important because of its history (p. 6)
struggled (<i>v.</i>)	had a hard or difficult time (p. 11)

Acropolis Adventure
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