

The Fisherman and his Soul

One evening a young fisherman catches a mermaid in his nets. He lets her go because she promises to help him fish. Each day the mermaid appears and sings her song, so he falls in love with her. But before the fisherman can marry the mermaid he must lose his human soul.

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READING & TRAINING

Oscar Wilde

The Fisherman and his Soul

Oscar Wilde

The Fisherman and his Soul



AUDIO CD-ROM



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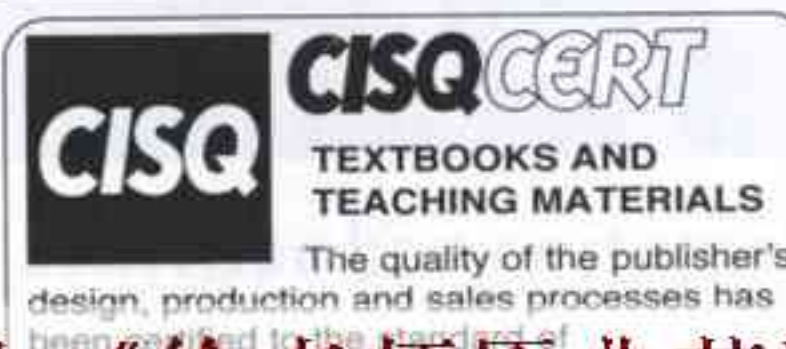
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PET Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADE 4 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 4)

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Oscar Wilde (1882).

About *the author*

■ Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born on 16th October 1854 in Dublin, Ireland. His parents were both very famous. His father, Sir William Ralph Wills Wilde, was an eye and ear doctor and an archaeologist. His mother, Jane Francesca Elgee, wrote passionate nationalist poems and articles in favour of women's rights.

Oscar's parents loved him very much, and so his childhood was very happy. Oscar had two brothers and a sister. Sadly, his sister died at

the age of ten in 1867. He did very well at school, and then went to Trinity College, Dublin, in 1871, and to Magdalen College at Oxford in 1874. When he arrived at Oxford he said, 'I was the happiest man in the world.' At university he won awards for his poetry and ability in Greek.

Oscar's father died in April 1876. The Wilde family had serious financial problems. Oscar's half-brother Henry supported the family until he died suddenly in 1877.

In 1878 Wilde said, 'I'll be a poet, a writer, a dramatist... I'll be famous, and if not famous, I'll be notorious.'¹

At Oxford he became an 'apostle of aestheticism', or the Cult of Beauty. This artistic movement believed in 'art for art's sake' (see the dossier on page 45). In other words, art has no purpose: it must only exist. The ideas of aestheticism shocked many people. At that time in England, many people thought that art must teach morality and show people the difference between good and bad. But Oscar Wilde thought that 'The artist is the creator of beautiful things,' and that 'All art is quite useless.'

As the apostle of this cult of beauty, Oscar Wilde dressed in extravagant and shocking ways. He also became famous for his wit.² In 1881 a comic musical operetta came out called *Patience*. It made fun of both aestheticism and Oscar Wilde. Oscar thought it was very funny. The operetta was very successful in England, and the theatrical company decided to take it to America. But somebody had to explain English aestheticism to the Americans, or they could not understand the play. Ironically, the company decided to take Oscar.

1. **notorious** : famous for doing bad things.

2. **wit** : the ability to use words or ideas in an amusing, intelligent and imaginative way.



A poster for *Patience*.

He spent almost a year in America, and travelled from coast to coast. He gave over fifty talks and made a lot of money. In 1884 he married the beautiful and intelligent Constance Lloyd. They had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan. Oscar wrote two collections of fairy tales for his sons, *The Happy Prince* and *A House of Pomegranates*. One of these tales was 'The Fisherman and his Soul'. This was also Oscar's most successful period as a writer. He wrote

his only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; in this book Dorian sells his soul to stay young and attractive.

Most of all, though, Oscar Wilde became famous for his very witty plays. In 1895 Wilde had two successful plays, and he was at the top of success.

Then tragedy came. People accused him of homosexual acts. Homosexuality was illegal at that time. Wilde contested this, but he lost the case, and was sent to prison in Reading for two years of hard labour.¹

These two years of prison broke his health and his spirit. He wrote only one more important work, a beautiful poem called *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. It describes some of his horrible experiences in prison. After prison, Wilde spent the rest of his life in France with very little money. He died in Paris of cerebral meningitis on 30th November 1900. He was 46 years old.

1 Answer the questions below.

- a. What were Wilde's parents famous for?
- b. What was Wilde's childhood like?
- c. Where did he study?
- d. Why did aestheticism shock many people?
- e. Why did Oscar Wilde go to America?
- f. What is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* about?
- g. What is Oscar Wilde most famous for?
- h. What is the poem *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* about?
- i. How old was Wilde when he died?

1. **hard labour** : (here) hard work.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Look at the pictures below. Now read the clues (definitions) for each word on page 9. Match them to the numbers on the crossword.



- a. A large white sea bird.
- b. The empty covering of soft sea animals.
- c. A mythical creature. It has the top of a woman and the bottom of a fish.
- d. Moving water on the surface of the sea.
- e. The name for the sand near the sea.
- f. Fishermen use these to catch fish.
- g. A mythical creature. It has the top of a man and the bottom of a fish.
- h. A sea mammal. It can come out of water on to the land.

Across

4.
6.
8.

Down

1.
2.
3.
5.
7.





2 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter One. It describes how the fisherman first met the mermaid.

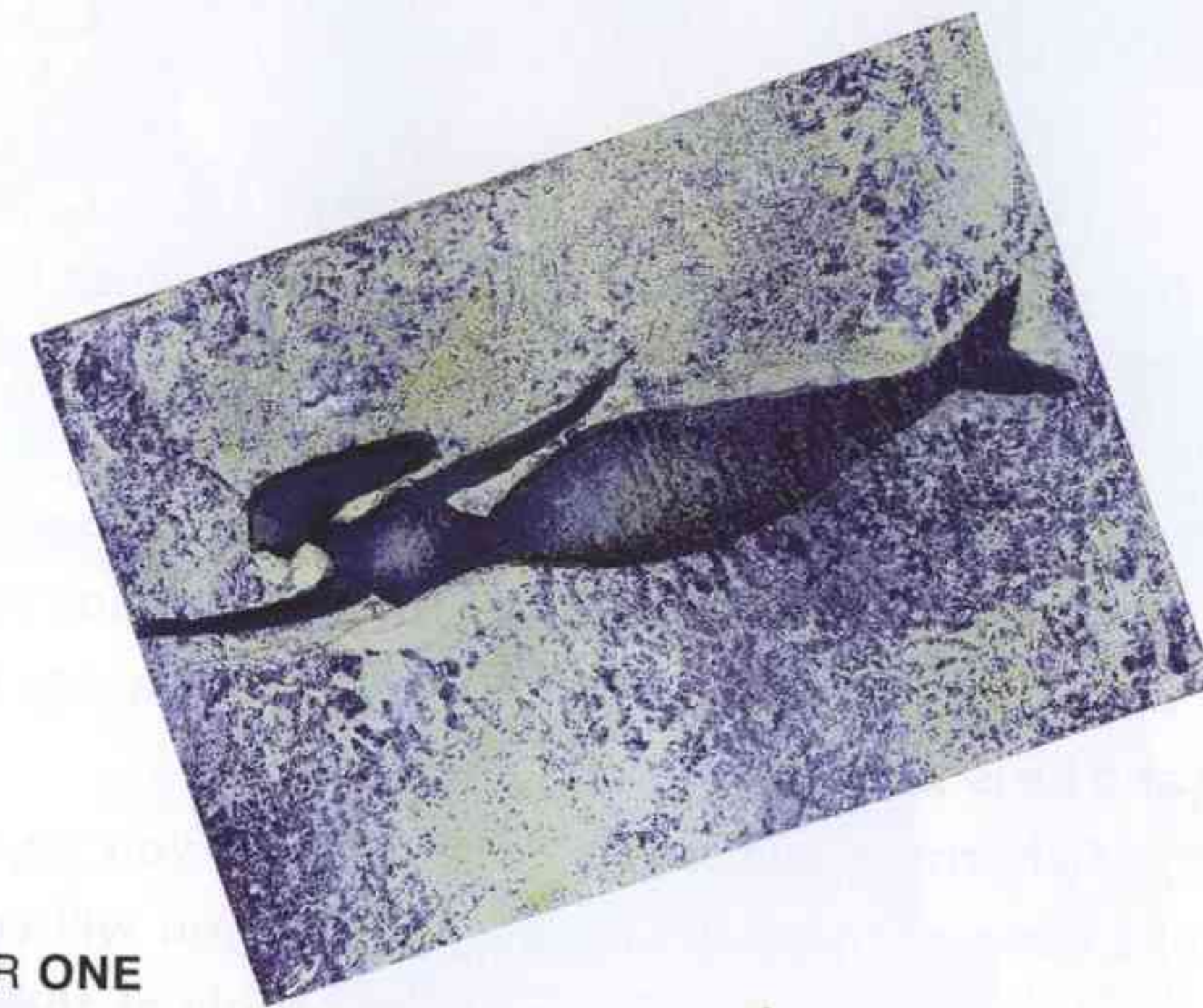
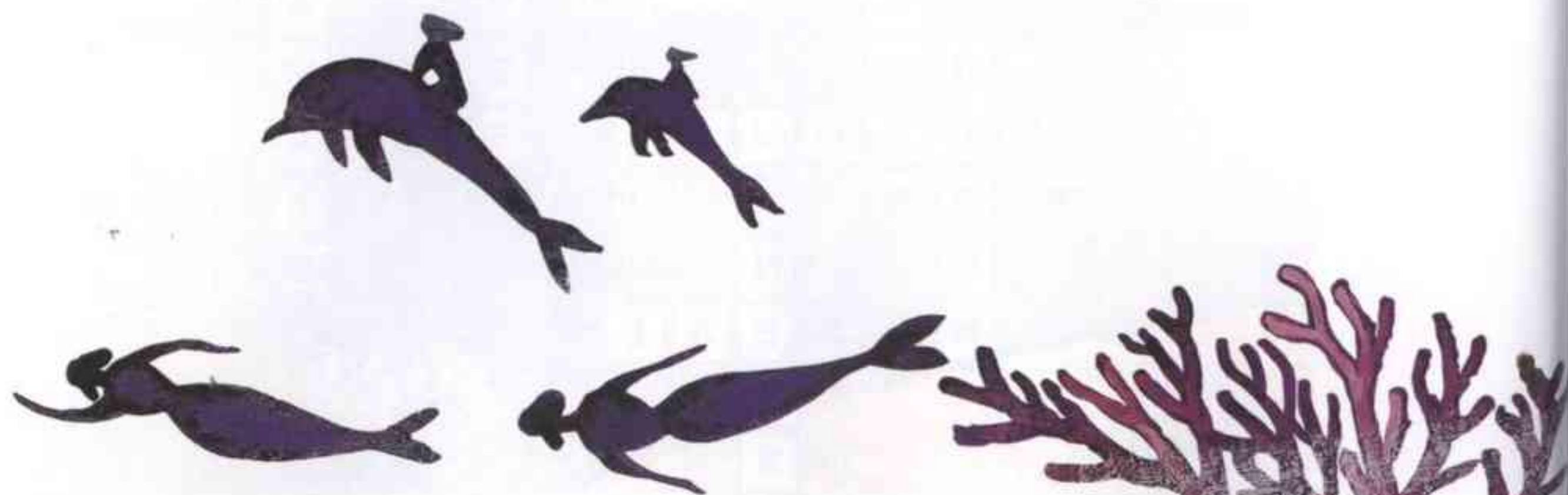
Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

	A	B
	YES	NO
1 The fisherman went fishing every morning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 The fisherman caught the mermaid in his net.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 The mermaid was happy to see the fisherman.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The mermaid did not have any brothers or sisters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The fisherman wanted the mermaid to sing for him.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 The mermaid sang songs about fishermen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 The mermaid always came near the fisherman when she sang.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 The fisherman decided that he wanted to marry the mermaid.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now read the text and correct the incorrect sentences.

3 Pictures

Look at the picture on page 13. Who are the people in the picture? Where are they? How do you think they are feeling?



CHAPTER ONE

The Mermaid



very evening the fisherman went out fishing. He sometimes sold his fish at the market. Sometimes he did not catch¹ many fish and he could not sell them.

One evening his net was very heavy. He laughed and said, 'Did I catch all the fish in the sea? Or did I catch some horrible monster? I will give it to the Queen. She will be happy.'

He pulled and pulled the heavy net. Finally, he pulled the net next to the boat.

But there were no fish in it and there was no monster. There was only a little mermaid. She was asleep.

1. catch : (catch, caught, caught) take, capture.

Her hair was yellow like gold; her body was white like ivory; her tail like silver and pearl; and her ears like seashells.

She was very beautiful. The fisherman pulled the net closer to the boat. He embraced her. When he touched her, she screamed.

She could not escape so she began to cry and said, 'Please let me go. I am the only daughter of a King of the Sea. My father is very old and he is alone.'

But the fisherman answered her, 'I will let you go, but you must make me a promise. I will call you and you will come and sing to me. The fish love the songs of the people of the sea. You will sing and my nets will be full.'

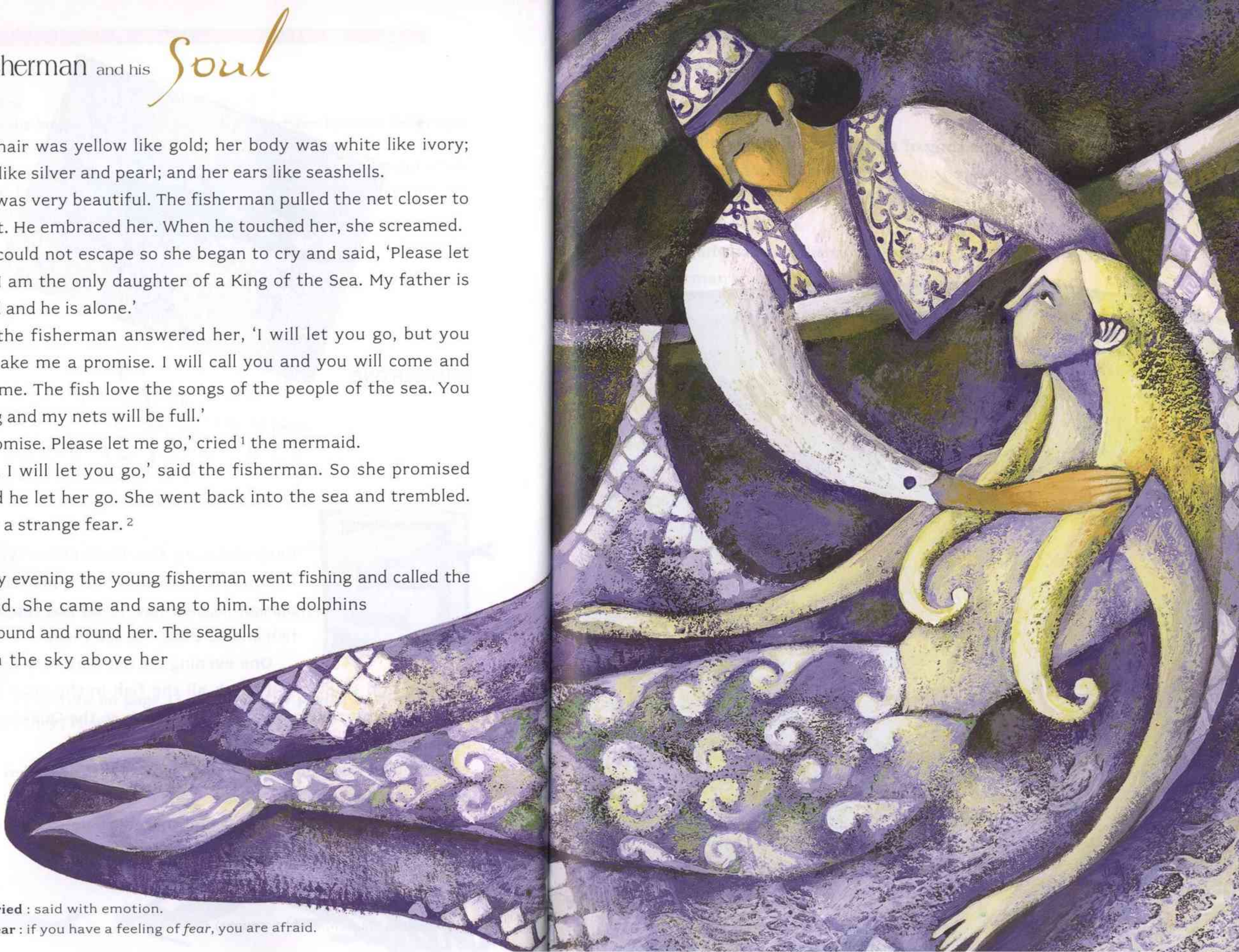
'I promise. Please let me go,' cried¹ the mermaid.

'Yes, I will let you go,' said the fisherman. So she promised him and he let her go. She went back into the sea and trembled. She felt a strange fear.²

Every evening the young fisherman went fishing and called the mermaid. She came and sang to him. The dolphins swam round and round her. The seagulls were in the sky above her head.

1. **cried** : said with emotion.

2. **fear** : if you have a feeling of *fear*, you are afraid.



The Fisherman and his

Soul

She sang a marvellous song of the tritons, the men with long green beards.

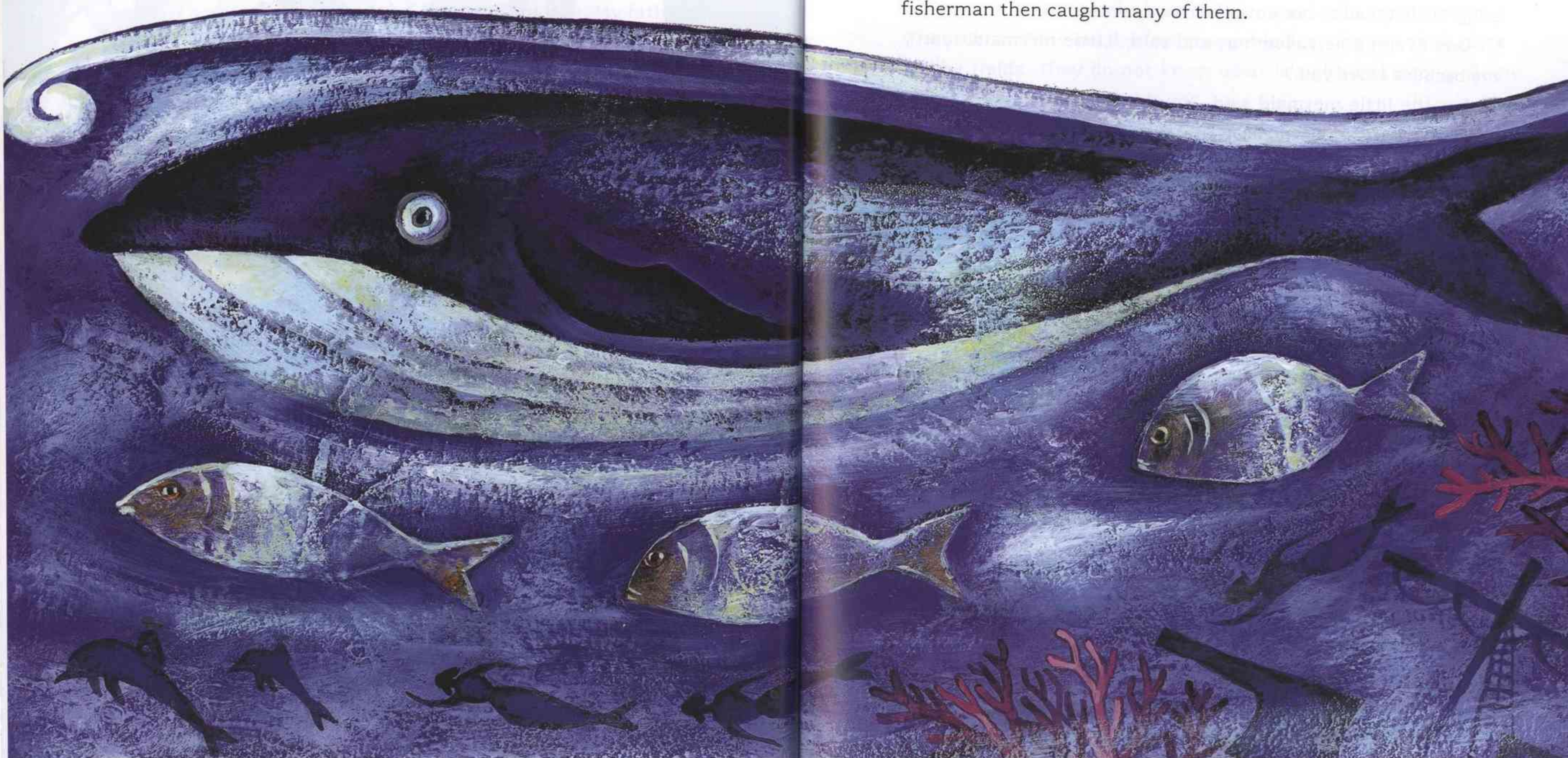
She sang of the gardens of the sea with their corals. Here the fish swim like silver birds.

The Mermaid

She sang of the big whales from the cold north seas, and of the dead sailors in their ships at the bottom of the sea.

She sang of the little children. They ride on the backs of the dolphins and laugh.

When she sang the tuna fish came to listen to her. The young fisherman then caught many of them.



When his boat was full of fish, the mermaid smiled at him and swam away.

But she never came near him. When he tried to catch her, she went into the water like a seal. Each day her voice became sweeter to his ears. Soon he forgot his nets and listened to her song. He listened to her until the moon came.

One evening he called her, and said, 'Little mermaid, marry me because I love you.'

END

But the little mermaid said, 'You have a human soul.¹ Send away your soul, and then I can love you.'

The young fisherman thought, 'Why do I need my soul? I cannot see it. I cannot touch it. I do not know it. Of course I will send it away and I will be very happy.'

He stood up in his boat and cried, 'I will send my soul away! You will be my wife, and you will show me all the things you sing about. We will be together forever.'

The little mermaid laughed because she was very happy.

'But how can I send my soul away?' cried the young fisherman.

'I do not know,' said the little mermaid. 'The people of the sea have no souls.'

Early the next morning the fisherman went to the priest's house and knocked² on his door. The priest looked out of the window and saw the fisherman and said, 'Come in.'

The young fisherman entered and cried to the priest, 'Father, I am in love with a mermaid. I cannot marry her because I have a

1. **soul** : the spiritual part of you; it continues to live after you die.

2. **knocked** [nɒkt]: made a noise with his hand.

soul. How can I send my soul away? I really do not need it. Why is my soul important? I cannot see it. I cannot touch it. I do not know it.'

The priest answered, 'Are you mad? God gave you your soul. It is very precious. It is as precious as all the gold in the world. So, my son, do not think about this any more. It is the worst sin.¹ The people of the sea are lost creatures. They are like the beasts of the fields. They do not know what is right and wrong. God didn't die for them.'

The young fisherman began to cry and said, 'Father, the fauns live in the forest and are happy. The mermen² sit on the rocks with their gold harps. I want to be like them.'

'Why is my soul important? I have a soul, but I cannot have the mermaid, and I love her,' he cried.

'It is horrible to love your body!' cried the priest. 'The fauns³ of the woods and the mermen are horrible! I hear them at night. They try to distract me from my prayers. They are lost, I tell you, they are lost. There is no heaven or hell for them.'

'Away! Away!' cried the priest. 'Your mermaid is lost and you will be lost with her.'

The young fisherman walked sadly to the marketplace.

When the merchants saw him they said, 'What do you want to sell?'

'I will sell you my soul,' he answered. 'Please buy it from me because I am tired of it. What can I do with a soul? I cannot see it. I cannot touch it. I do not know it.'

1. **sin** : this action breaks a religious or moral law.

2. **mermen** : male mermaids.

3. **fauns** [fɔ:nz] : these mythical creatures are half human, half animal.



But the merchants laughed at him, and said, 'What can we do with a soul? A false coin¹ is more precious. Sell us your body, and we will give you a lot of gold. But we will not give you any money for your soul.'

The young fisherman thought, 'How strange this is! The priest said, "Your soul is as precious as all the gold in the world." But the merchants say, "A false coin is more precious."'

He went to the beach and began to think.



1. coin: metal money.

Go back to the text

PET 1 Read the questions below. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

- When the mermaid sang for the fisherman, he stopped fishing because
 - ☐ he caught enough fish the first time she sang for him.
 - ☐ he liked listening to the mermaid and he did not think about fishing anymore.
 - ☐ no fish came when she sang.
 - ☐ he wanted to catch her, and he forgot about fishing.
- What must the fisherman do to marry the mermaid?
 - ☐ He must send his soul away.
 - ☐ He must catch all the fish in the sea.
 - ☐ He must catch her again.
 - ☐ He must let her go.
- The mermaid does not know about souls because
 - ☐ you cannot see them.
 - ☐ they are not precious.
 - ☐ you cannot touch them.
 - ☐ she does not have one.
- The priest thinks that the fisherman's soul
 - ☐ does not know what is right and wrong.
 - ☐ is very precious.
 - ☐ is not as precious as a false coin.
 - ☐ does not exist.
- The merchants think that the fisherman's soul
 - ☐ is not precious.
 - ☐ is as precious as all the gold in the world.
 - ☐ is lost.
 - ☐ will soon be very happy like the fauns and mermen.



6 Which of the following best summarises the chapter?

- A ☐ Different ways of being happy.
 B ☐ A happy marriage.
 C ☐ Different ideas about the soul.
 D ☐ How to send away your soul.

2 Writing

Pretend that you are the priest. Write a diary entry of about 100 words beginning like this:

I was shocked when the young fisherman came to see me. He said 'I want to send away my soul.'

Include the following information:

- Why the fisherman wanted to send his soul away
- What you thought
- What you told him
- His reaction
- What you think the fisherman will do

3 Verbs

A Find the Past Simple of the irregular verbs in the box in the verb square. All of them appear in Chapter One.

go catch see begin come forget
sing swim let become

B	B	E	C	A	M	E	G	R	E	S	U	C	N	W
E	Y	G	W	E	N	T	N	P	Z	O	P	I	K	G
U	T	H	I	B	O	O	I	A	R	E	A	L	O	K
F	O	R	G	S	W	A	M	E	H	L	P	E	W	O
I	S	H	C	I	V	A	A	N	D	E	G	R	E	P
M	I	L	L	A	O	A	R	E	C	T	M	B	Y	S
O	F	R	I	E	U	N	D	S	A	F	I	E	N	T
R	T	C	F	O	R	G	O	T	M	D	A	G	L	O
F	W	I	T	U	H	S	H	A	E	G	N	A	T	I
L	S	A	N	D	N	B	A	T	B	G	T	N	B	U
I	M	A	H	U	M	G	A	N	O	O	C	X	Z	W
G	O	N	N	A	R	E	T	H	E	T	D	A	L	O
T	O	U	D	G	S	A	W	C	A	T	U	G	T	S

B Complete the sentences below with one of the verbs from page 22 in the Past Simple. Decide if the verb is affirmative or negative.

Example: Fish ...~~swam~~..... near the fisherman's nets.

- The fisherman a monster for the queen.
- The mermaid songs about things on the land.
- The fisherman his nets because the mermaid was so beautiful.
- Oscar Wilde studying at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1874.
- The mermaid more beautiful every time the fisherman saw her.
- The priest the fisherman outside his house.
- The fisherman out fishing every morning.
- The fisherman the mermaid go.
- Every evening the mermaid to the fisherman.



T: GRADE 4

4 Topic – Work

Fishermen's work is difficult, but it can be exciting. Prepare a talk for your class about your ideal type of work. Use the questions below to help you.

- What is your ideal type of work?
- Do you need a special diploma or university degree to do this work?
- How do you learn to do it?
- Why do you want to do it? Is it exciting? Does it have a good salary?
- Is it difficult? Why or why not?
- Are you going to do this work in the future?

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two. You will hear about the fisherman's meeting with a witch.

For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- Where did the witch live?
 - ☐ on a hill
 - ☐ in a little house near the sea
 - ☐ in a cave
- The witch will help the fisherman but he must
 - ☐ pay a price.
 - ☐ never tell anybody about her.
 - ☐ promise to bring her fish and treasure.
- What did the witch think about the fisherman's request?
 - ☐ She thought it was terrible.
 - ☐ She thought it was wonderful.
 - ☐ She thought it was ridiculous.
- The fisherman asked for help again. What must the fisherman do?
 - ☐ He must give the witch five pieces of gold.
 - ☐ He must sing to the witch.
 - ☐ He must dance with the witch.
- Where will the witch and the fisherman meet?
 - ☐ by the sea
 - ☐ on the top of a mountain
 - ☐ in a forest



CHAPTER TWO

The Witch



At midday he remembered that there was a young witch. She lived in a cave¹ and she was very good at magic. He ran quickly to her.

'What do you need? What do you need?' she cried, when he ran towards her cave. 'Do you need fish when the weather is bad? I have a special instrument. You play it and all the fish swim into the bay. But it has a price, pretty boy, it has a price.'

'What do you need? What do you need? A storm to destroy the ships? Do you want the gold on the ships? I can help you. I have more storms than the wind. My master is stronger than the wind. But I have a price, pretty boy, I have a price.'

1. cave : a large hole in the side of a hill.

'I do not want very much,' said the young fisherman, 'but the priest is very angry with me, and the merchants laugh at me. So, I came to you, and I will pay you any price.'

'What do you want?' asked the witch.

'I want to send my soul away from me,' answered the young fisherman.

The witch's face became white. 'Pretty boy, pretty boy,' she said, 'that is a terrible thing to do.'

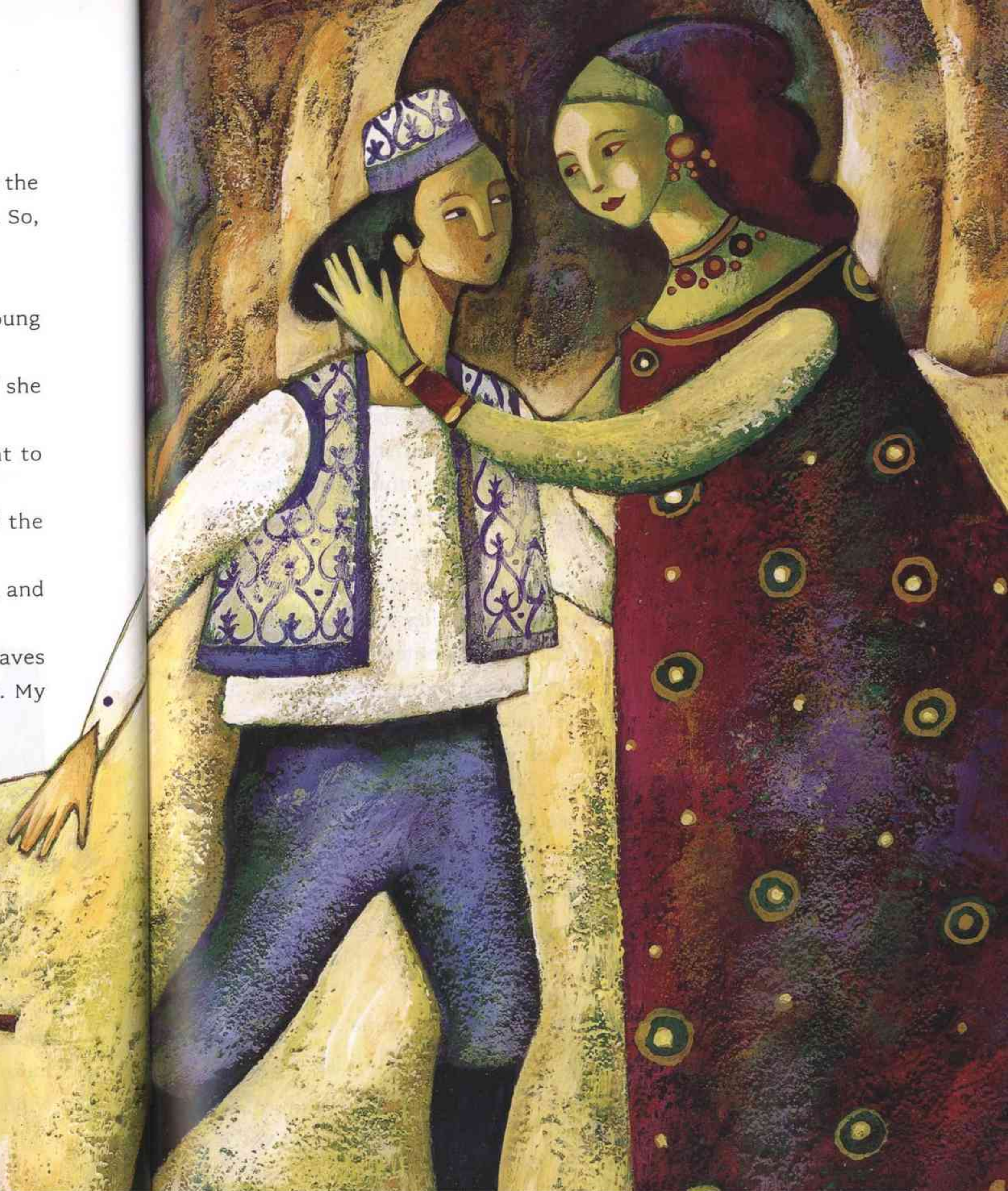
He laughed and answered her, 'My soul is not important to me. I cannot see it. I cannot touch it. I do not know it.'

'I will tell you, but you must give me something,' said the witch. She looked at him with her beautiful eyes.

'Five pieces of gold,' he said, 'and my nets and my house, and my boat. But how can I send away my soul?'

She laughed and answered, 'I can change the autumn leaves into gold. I can change the light of the moon into silver. My master is richer than all the kings of this world.'

The witch caressed his hair with her thin white hand. 'You must dance with me, pretty boy,' she said softly, and she smiled at him.



'Only this?' cried the young fisherman.

'Only this,' she answered, and she smiled at him again.

'Then we will dance together in a secret place at sunset,'¹ he said, 'and you will tell me everything. Then I can send away my soul.'

'When the moon is full, when the moon is full,' she said softly. Then she looked around and listened. Three birds sang. There was no other sound. There was only the sound of the waves. So she pulled him next to her. She put her dry lips close to his ear.

'Tonight you must come to the top of the mountain,' she whispered.² 'It is a special night and He will be there.'



'Who is He?' he asked.

'It is not important,' she answered. 'Go tonight and stand under the tree, and wait for me. You will see a dog, and you must hit it with a stick.'³ The dog will run away. Remember, do not speak to the owl.⁴ I will come with the full moon, and we will dance together.'

'How can I send my soul away? You must promise to tell me,' he said.

She came out of the cave into the sun. 'I promise,' she answered.

'You are the best witch in the world,' cried the fisherman, and he ran back to the town happily.

The witch went into her cave, and burned a magic plant. She looked into the smoke.

After some time she said angrily, 'He must be mine. I am as beautiful as she is.'

1. **sunset** : when the sun goes down.

2. **whispered** : said very quietly.

3. **stick** : a piece of wood.

4. **owl** [aʊl] :



That evening, when the moon appeared, the fisherman went to the top of the mountain. He stood under the tree.

A big owl with yellow eyes called his name. He did not answer. A black dog ran towards him. He hit it with the stick, and it ran away.

At midnight the witches were in the sky. They were like bats.¹ 'Phew!' they cried when they came to the ground, 'there is someone here and we do not know him!'

Finally, the young witch with red hair appeared. She wore² a gold dress with peacock's eyes³ on it and her little hat was green.

'Where is he, where is he?' asked the witches when they saw her. She laughed and ran to the fisherman. She took his hand and then they danced in the moonlight.

They danced round and round. Then they heard the sound of a galloping horse, but they did not see a horse.

'Faster, faster!' she cried, and then the fisherman was afraid. Something very bad was there and he was afraid of it.

There was a man near a rock. He wore elegant Spanish clothes. This man watched the fisherman constantly. The witch laughed, and he danced with her round and round.

1. **bats** :



2. **wore** : (wear, wore, worn) when you wear something such as clothes or shoes, you have them on your body.

3. **peacock's eyes** : the design on a peacock's tail.





Go back to the text

1 Answer the questions below.

- What was the witch like?
- Did the fisherman want to keep his soul?
- Why did he feel this way?
- Why didn't the witch want the fisherman's five pieces of gold, nets, house and boat?
- How did the witch feel about the fisherman?
- What was the very bad thing that the fisherman sensed?



2 Your opinion

The witch's master

Who do you think the witch's master is? Choose from the following:

- ☐ the devil
- ☐ a famous and successful criminal
- ☐ a Spanish prince
- ☐ a great magician or wizard

3 Characters

The mermaid and the witch

What do the mermaid and the witch have in common? Read the text again and look at the pictures in Chapters One and Two.

Think about:

- what they look like
- their feelings for the fisherman
- their powers

Now write a short description of the mermaid and the witch. Start your description like this:

Both the mermaid and the witch have faces, and they both the fisherman. Also, they both have powers: the witch can, and the mermaid can

'My master is richer than all the kings of this world'

Look at these comparative sentences:

The mermaid is **more beautiful than** the witch.

My master is **stronger than** the wind.

Look at this superlative sentence:

The mermaid's father was **the oldest** king in the sea.

Remember that we form the comparative and superlative of adjectives with one syllable by adding **-er** and **-est**.

If an adjective ends with consonant-vowel-consonant, we double the final consonant to form the comparative and superlative:

hot → hotter → hottest

The comparatives and superlatives of those adjectives that end in **ly**, **y** or **er** are also formed as above. Notice, though, that the **y** becomes an **i**:
easy → easier → easiest

For most other adjectives with two syllables and all those with three or more syllables, we form the comparatives and superlatives with **more** and **most**:

beautiful → more beautiful → the most beautiful

4 Comparatives and superlatives

A Complete the table below with the correct comparative and superlative forms. The first three have been done for you.

	comparative	superlative
dry	drier than	the driest
fast	faster than	the fastest
precious	more precious than	the most precious
famous		
big		
young		
beautiful		
rich		
happy		

- B Now write logical comparative sentences using the elements given and one of the adjectives from the table on page 33. The first one has been done for you.

Example:

According to the priest, (the soul/all the gold in the world)

According to the priest, ...the soul is more precious than all the gold in the world.

- a. According to the fisherman, (the mermaid/the witch)
.....
- b. According to the fisherman, (the fauns and mermen/people)
.....
- c. The merchant has five pieces of gold. The witch's master has five hundred. (the witch's master/the merchant)
.....
- d. It rains a lot in April and it rains very little in July. (July/April)
.....
- e. Dolphins can swim at a speed of 30 kilometres per hour. Horses can run at a speed of 70 kilometres per hour. (horses/dolphins)
.....
- f. Almost everybody knows about Oscar Wilde. Almost nobody knows about the artist Aubrey Beardsley. (Oscar Wilde/Aubrey Beardsley)
.....
- g. The Atlantic Ocean has an area of 82, 440 million square kilometres. The Pacific Ocean has an area of 165, 250 million square kilometres. (Pacific Ocean/Atlantic Ocean)
.....
- h. Oscar Wilde's son Cyril was born in 1885. His son Vyvyan was born in 1886. (Cyril/Vyvyan)
.....

Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Three.

For each question, put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

- 1 When the witches came near the man they
 - A ☐ kissed his hand.
 - B ☐ smiled at him.
 - C ☐ began to dance again.
- 2 When the fisherman came near the man the fisherman
 - A ☐ smiled at him.
 - B ☐ called God's name.
 - C ☐ said 'send my soul away!'
- 3 The witch did not fly away from the fisherman because
 - A ☐ the elegant man wanted her to stay.
 - B ☐ she loved the fisherman.
 - C ☐ the fisherman stopped her.
- 4 What did the witch give the fisherman?
 - A ☐ a beautiful little box with diamonds and rubies on it
 - B ☐ her hat
 - C ☐ a knife
- 5 Where was the fisherman when he sent his soul away?
 - A ☐ on the beach
 - B ☐ on the mountain top
 - C ☐ in his boat





CHAPTER THREE

The Secret



dog barked¹ and the dancers stopped. They went to the man, and kissed his hand.

'Come! Let's pray,' the witch said softly. The fisherman wanted to do this, and he followed her. But when he came near the

man, he called God's name.

When he did this, the witches screamed and went away. A horse came and the man got on it. He looked at the fisherman sadly, and then disappeared.

The witch with red hair tried to fly away too, but the fisherman stopped her.

'Let me go,' she cried. 'You must not say God's name.'

'No,' he answered, 'You are my prisoner. Tell me the secret now.'

1. **barked** : made the typical sound of a dog.

The Secret

'What secret?' said the witch. She tried to escape.

'You know,' he answered.

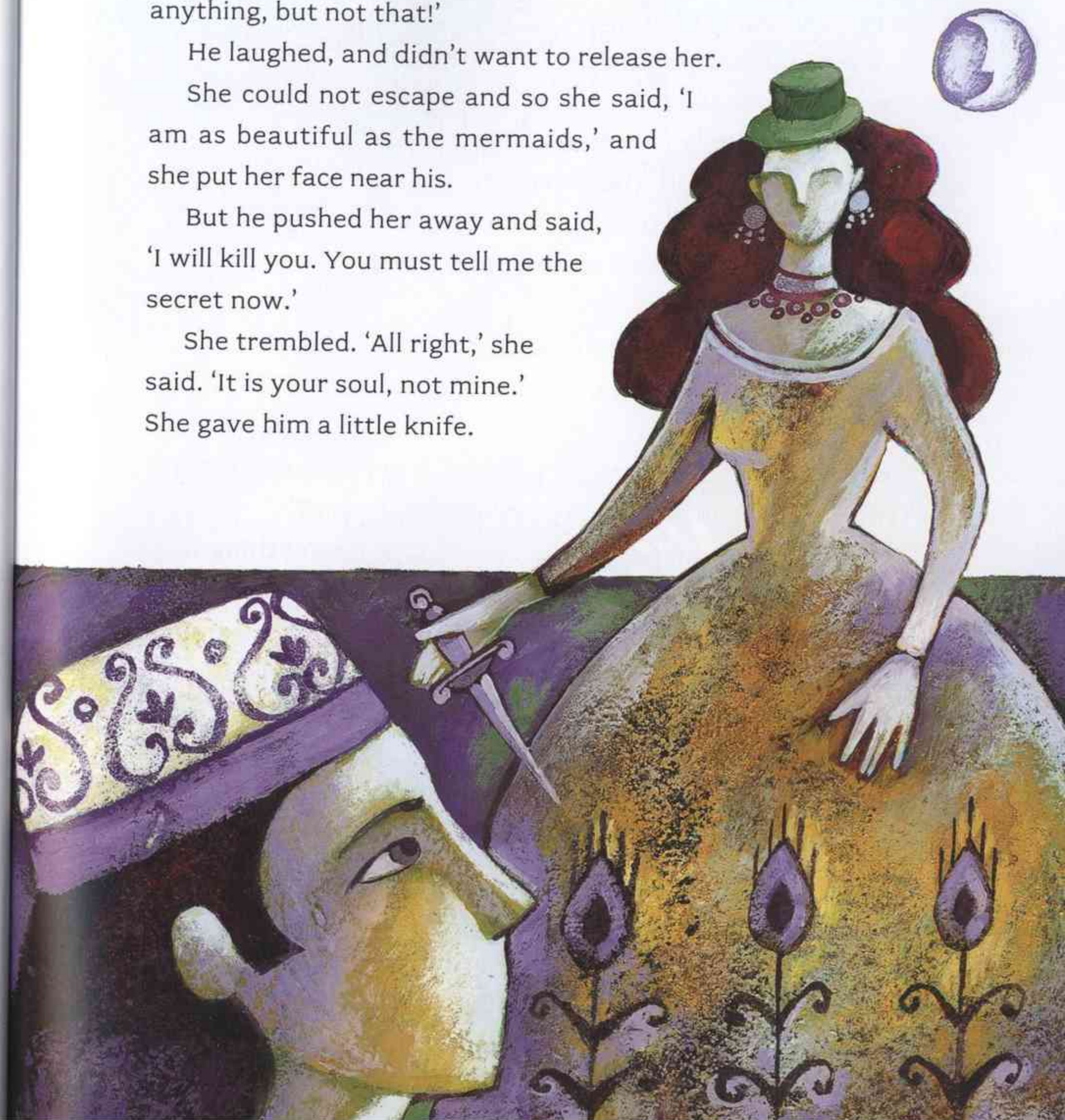
She began to cry and said to the fisherman, 'Ask me anything, but not that!'

He laughed, and didn't want to release her.

She could not escape and so she said, 'I am as beautiful as the mermaids,' and she put her face near his.

But he pushed her away and said, 'I will kill you. You must tell me the secret now.'

She trembled. 'All right,' she said. 'It is your soul, not mine.' She gave him a little knife.



'Why did you give me this knife?' he asked.

She was silent for a moment. She was terrified. Then she said to him, 'Our shadow is not the shadow of our bodies. It is the body of our souls. Stand on the beach with your back to the moon. Cut your shadow from your feet. Then you must tell your soul to leave and it will leave.'

The young fisherman trembled. 'Is this true?' he said.

He released her and took the knife. Then he walked to the sea.

The fisherman's soul then said to him, 'I am your servant. Do not send me away now. Did I do anything bad to you?'

The young fisherman laughed. 'You didn't do anything bad, but I do not need you,' he answered. 'The world is big. Go where you want. But do not disturb me because my love is calling me.'

His soul called him many times, but he did not listen.

He then arrived on the beach and stood on the sand with his back to the moon. White arms came out of the foam¹ and they asked him to come.

His soul said to him, 'Do not send me away without a heart. The world is cruel. Give me your heart.'

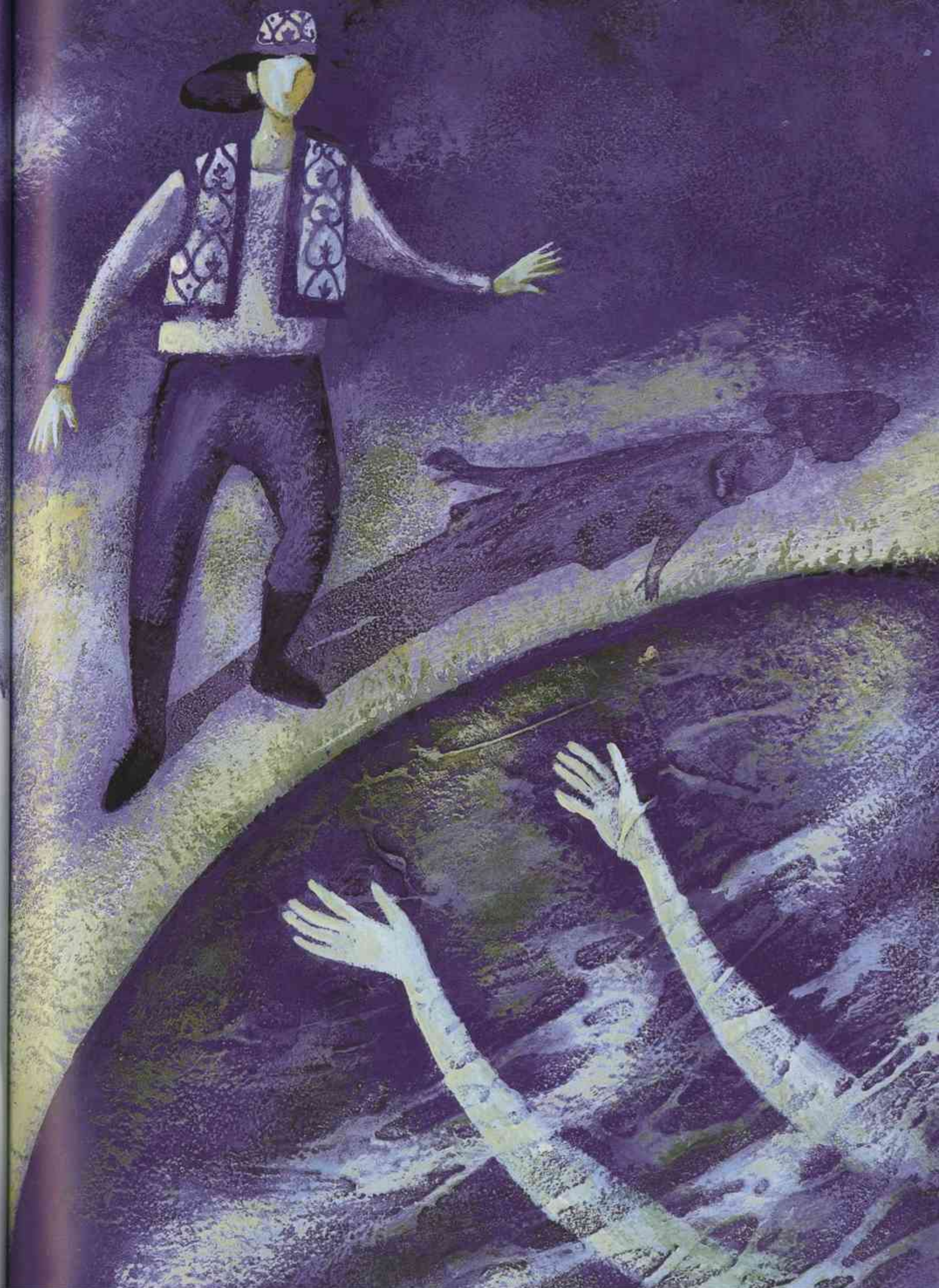
'How can I love my mermaid without a heart?' he cried.

'Please,' said his soul, 'give me your heart. The world is cruel and I am afraid.'

1. foam:



END



The Fisherman and his

Soul

'My heart is with my love now,' he answered. 'Go away.'

'But I also need to love,' said his soul.

'Go away. I do not need you!' cried the young fisherman.

He took the little knife and cut his shadow from his feet. The shadow stood up in front of him, and it was very similar to the fisherman.

The fisherman moved back slowly, and he was afraid. 'Go away!' he murmured, 'and never come back again.'

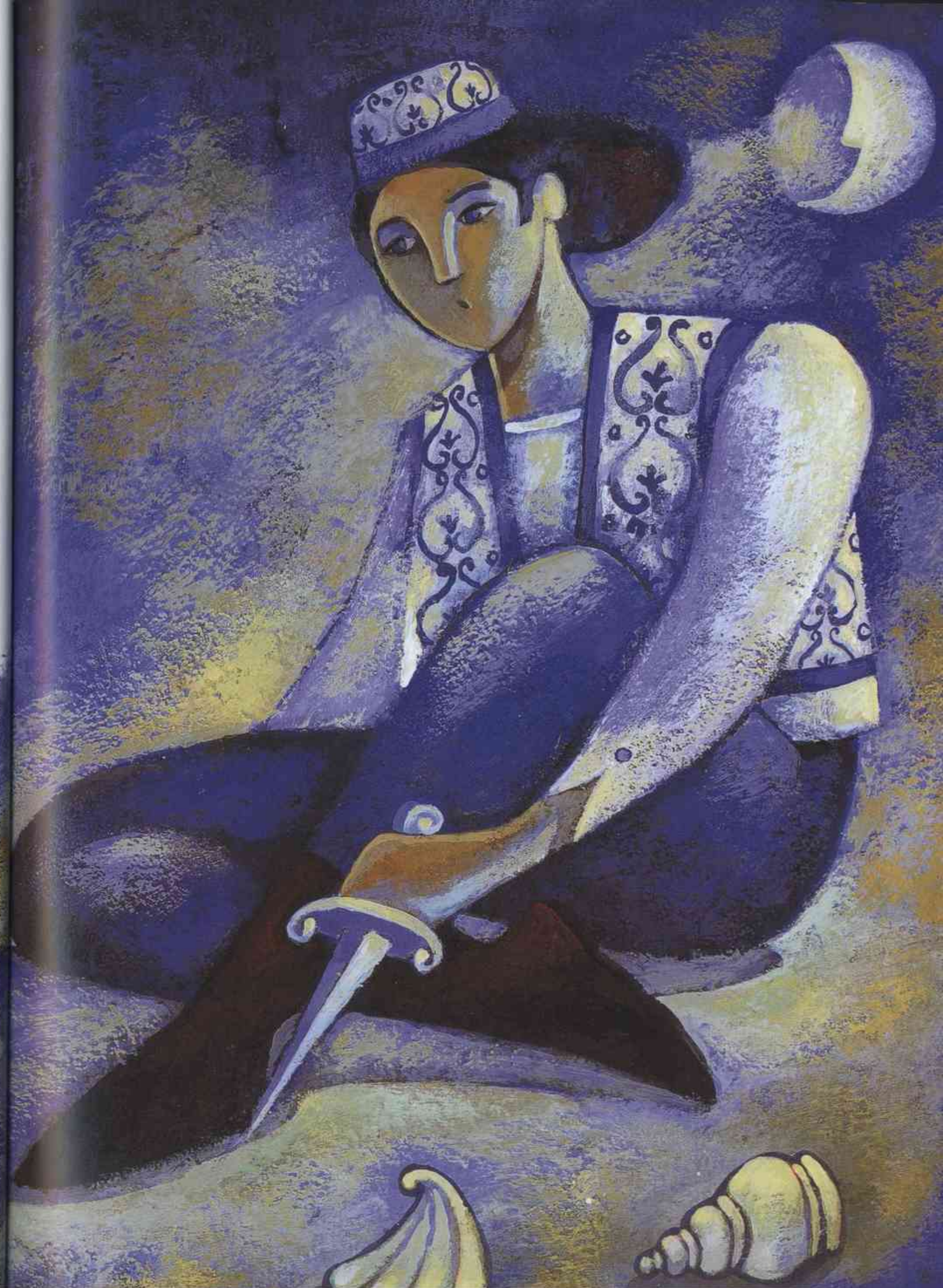
'No, but we must meet again,' said the soul. The soul's voice was like a flute.

'How will we meet?' cried the young fisherman. 'Will you follow me into the sea?'

'Once every year I will come to this place, and call you,' said the soul. 'Perhaps you will need me.'

'I do not think I will need you,' cried the young fisherman, 'but you can call me. I can come here again.' He went into the water, and the tritons played their musical instruments. The little mermaid came to meet him. She put her arms around his neck and kissed him on the mouth.

The soul stood on the beach and watched them. And when they disappeared into the sea, the fisherman's soul walked away and cried.



Go back to the text

PET 1 Look at the statements below about Chapter Three. Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is incorrect, write B as your answer.

- 1 When the fisherman called God's name, the man wearing elegant Spanish clothes smiled.
- 2 The witch didn't want to tell the fisherman how to send his soul away.
- 3 The fisherman's shadow was the body of his soul.
- 4 The fisherman gave his soul his heart.
- 5 The fisherman's soul was happy to leave the fisherman.
- 6 The soul wanted to see the fisherman again.
- 7 The fisherman met the mermaid on the beach.
- 8 The mermaid embraced the fisherman and kissed him on the mouth.

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8

Now correct the incorrect statements.

PET 2 Language

Here are some sentences from the first three chapters. For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using no more than three words.

Example: *I am as beautiful as the mermaids.*

The mermaids ...are not more... beautiful than me.

- 1 There were no fish in it.
There were not in it.
- 2 I have a price, pretty boy.
You must , pretty boy.



- 3 There was no other sound.
That was sound.
- 4 He must be mine.
I him
- 5 This man watched the fisherman constantly.
This man did not the fisherman.
- 6 You didn't do anything bad.
You nothing bad.
- 7 Do not disturb me because my love is calling me.
My love is calling me do not disturb me.

**'They went to the man'**

We use the indefinite articles (**a, an**) the first time we talk about somebody or something.

In Chapter Two we meet the witches' master for the first time, and we say:

*There was **a** man near a rock.*

In this chapter, we see him again and we use the definite article (**the**):

*They went to **the** man.*

We also use the definite article instead of the indefinite article when it is obvious what person or thing we are talking about:

*Tonight you must come to the top of **the** mountain.*

(there is only one mountain)

*Go tonight and stand under **the** tree.*

(there is only one tree on the top of the mountain)



3 Definite and indefinite articles

Fill in the gaps in the sentences below with the, a or an.

Example:

Yesterday I went to *the* library and got *a* book about Oscar Wilde.

- Last week I went to party, and met very nice boy.
- My brother has bicycle and motorcycle.
bicycle is blue and motorcycle is red.
- I saw really strange film on TV yesterday. It was about
old man and old woman. old man was a magician, and
..... old woman was witch.
- Turn on television. I want to see who won the football
match.
- Look! There's seagull on the top of school.
- This morning I walked into classroom and saw dog.
It was teacher's dog.
- I had pizza and some iced tea for lunch. pizza was cold,
and iced tea was warm.
- Shut door when you leave, please!

4 Vocabulary

Look at these words from Chapters One to Three and find the odd word out in each line. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| a. fish | dolphin | seal | seagull |
| b. false | heavy | quickly | long |
| c. mermaid | bat | faun | triton |
| d. ears | lips | eyes | arm |
| e. wife | father | son | daughter |
| f. coin | precious | merchant | money |
| g. ship | boat | horse | net |
| h. song | dance | sing | play |
| i. pulled | sold | caught | sang |

Aestheticism

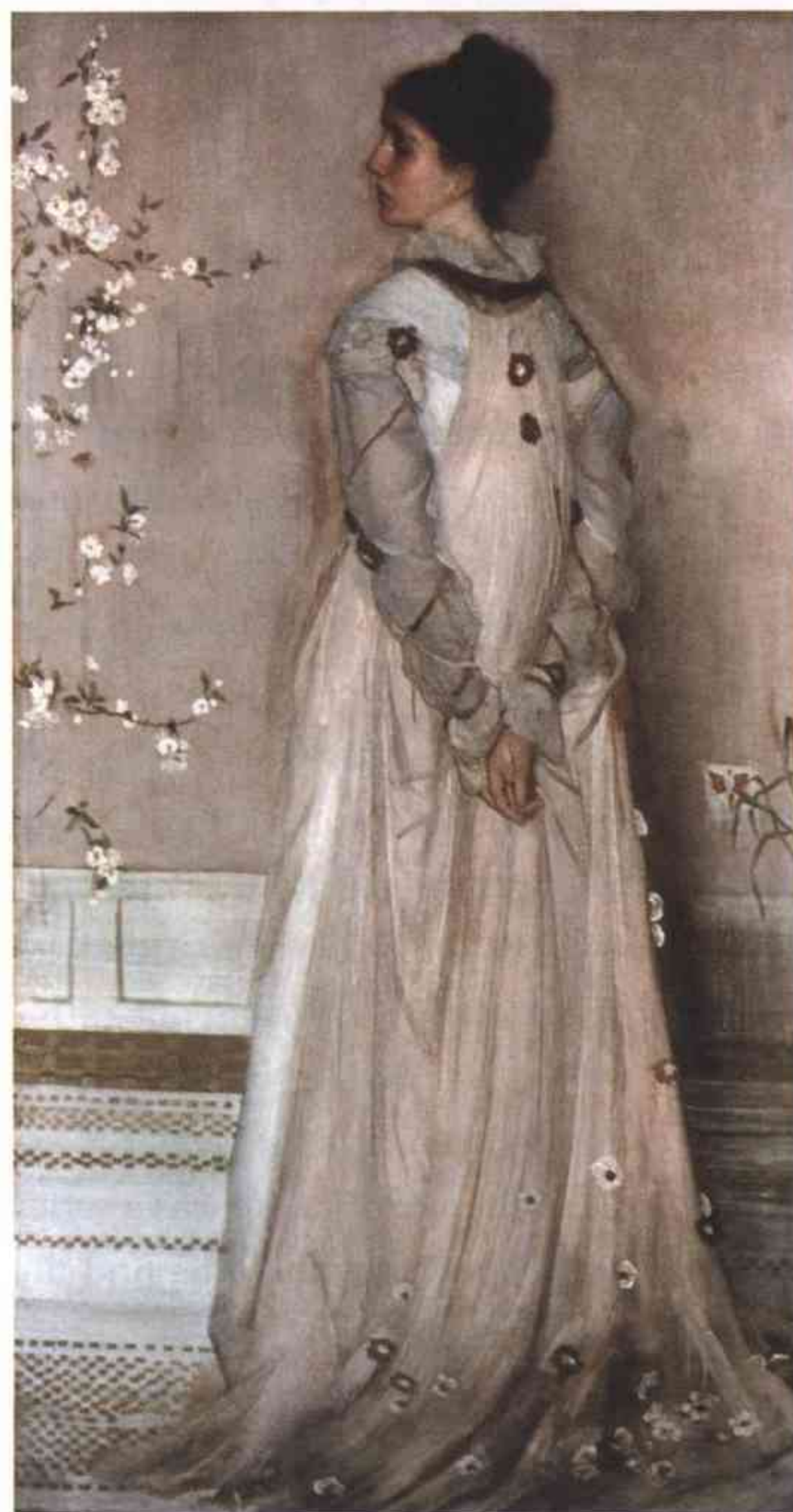
the cult of beauty

In the 1960s rock 'n' roll music became very popular in both Europe and America, and in recent years hip-hop and rap music has become very popular. These kinds of music represent complete lifestyles and attitudes. For example, young people who listen to rap music often dress and talk in a certain way. A similar thing happened in England in the 1880s and 1890s. There was a spirit or attitude among young artists called 'aestheticism', 'the cult of Beauty' or 'decadence'. The general public associated everything shocking or paradoxical with this group. The most shocking and influential of these young artists was Oscar Wilde. He started the fashion for 'Beauty', and it influenced writing, art, clothes and even home decorations.

Oscar Wilde took many of his ideas and attitudes from the French writers J. K. Huysmans (1848-1907), Théophile Gautier (1811-72) and Charles Baudelaire (1821-67). These writers rejected ordinary or useful things. They thought that the purpose of life was constantly to look for new sensations. Wilde also got many ideas from one of his Oxford teachers, Walter Pater (1839-94). Pater was a historian of the Renaissance and wrote about such famous artists as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Pater thought that life was a series of temporary sensations: art and philosophy must help us find the most intense and beautiful sensations.

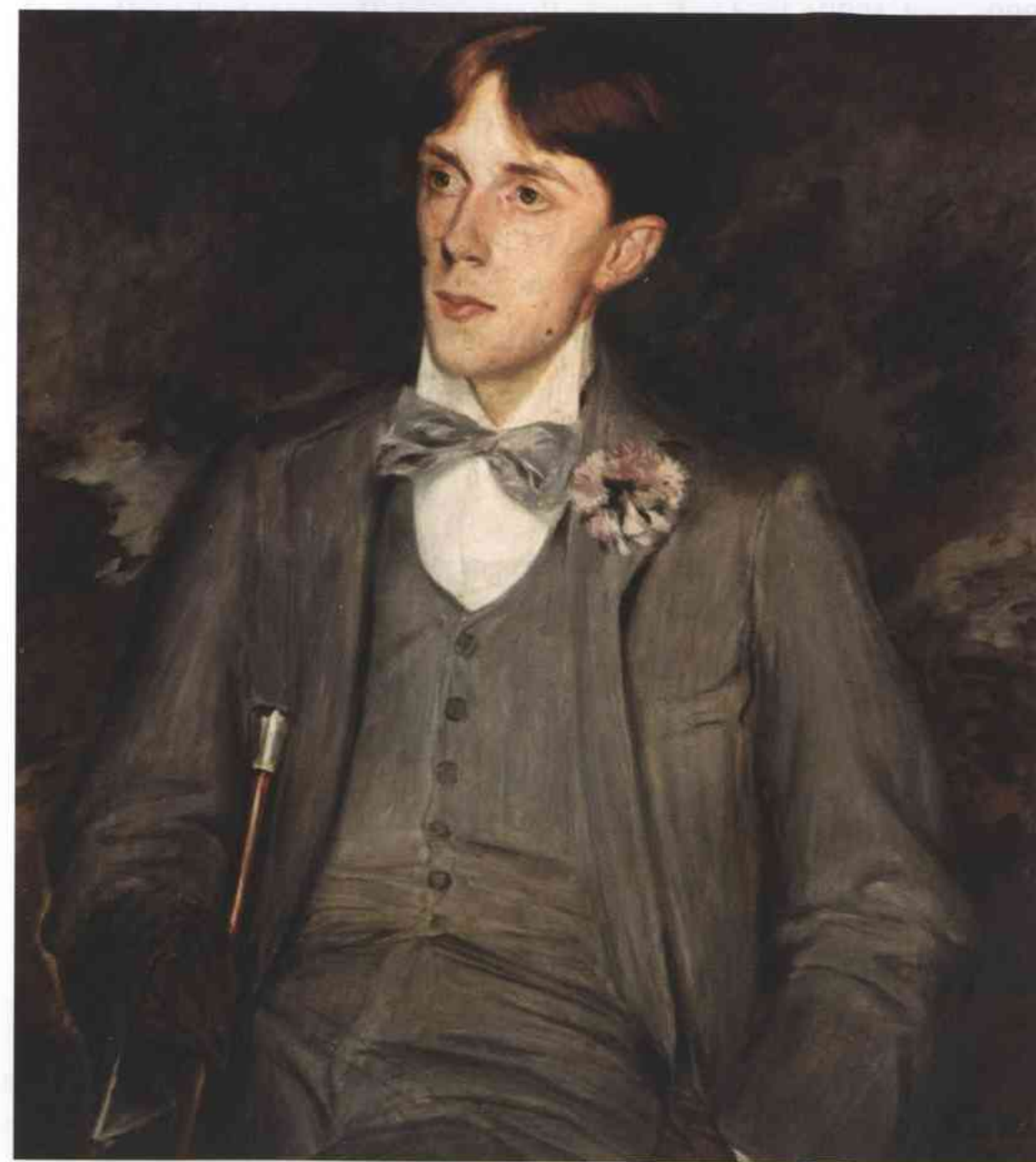
Now these ideas certainly do not seem very shocking or subversive. But during that period in Britain they were. The British middle

classes thought that art must teach us about morality. So, Oscar Wilde was subversive when he wrote that, 'There is no such thing as a moral or immoral book.' The American painter James Whistler (1834-1903) shocked people when he said that art has nothing to do with sentiments like 'devotion, pity, love, patriotism.'



**Mrs Frederick
R. Leyland (1872-3)**
by James Whistler.

Oscar Wilde and the other 'aesthetes' often met at the Café Royal in London. Another member of the group was Aubrey Beardsley (1872-98). He was nearly as notorious as Wilde. This thin, decadent young artist did beautiful linear and geometrical drawings. He took some of his inspiration for his art from Japanese prints and James Whistler's paintings. One of his drawings appeared on the cover of the first



Aubrey Beardsley (1895) by J. E. Blanche.

issue of the magazine *The Yellow Book* in 1894. This magazine published many of the works of the aesthetes. Also, like many of the other aesthetes, Beardsley died young.

By the end of the century, the decadent spirit in art ended, and today, with the exception of Oscar Wilde, the writers of this group are no longer very popular. However, the decadent writers of the 1880s and 1890s had a large influence on the greatest writers of modern English literature: James Joyce, T. S. Eliot, W. B. Yeats, Ezra Pound and Eugene O'Neill. Also, the drawings and designs of decadent artists like Aubrey Beardsley are still influential in contemporary commercial design.

Finally, the 'shocking' slogan of the aesthetes, 'art for art's sake', is now an extremely common and ordinary idea. In fact the next time you see an MGM film, look at the motto above the lion: *Ars Gratis Artis*. That is Latin for 'art for art's sake'.

PET 1 Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is incorrect, write B as your answer.

- 1 Aestheticism appeared in the early 1800s.
- 2 Aestheticism shocked people when it first appeared.
- 3 Oscar Wilde did not agree with aestheticism.
- 4 One of Oscar Wilde's most important students was Walter Pater.
- 5 Walter Pater thought that art and philosophy must help us find the most beautiful sensations.
- 6 Today Oscar Wilde is considered very subversive.
- 7 The writing of the decadent writers was very influential.
- 8 The motto of the MGM film studios has the same meaning as the motto of the aesthetes.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

Before you read

- 1** Fill in the gaps with the words in the box. The first one has been done for you.

of replied out came listened
stood to left went took on from

After a year, the soul ¹...came..... down ²..... the sea and called the young fisherman. He came ³..... of the sea, and said, 'Why do you call me?'

The soul answered, 'Come nearer. I want to speak to you because I saw marvellous things.'

So he came nearer, and sat in the water and ⁴.....

The soul said to him, 'When I ⁵..... you, I ⁶..... towards the East and travelled. Everything wise comes from the East.

After six days I came to the land of the Tartars. One night I saw a fire in a camp ⁷..... a company of merchants.

I went to them and the chief of merchants ⁸..... up and ⁹..... his sword.

"Who are you?" he asked.

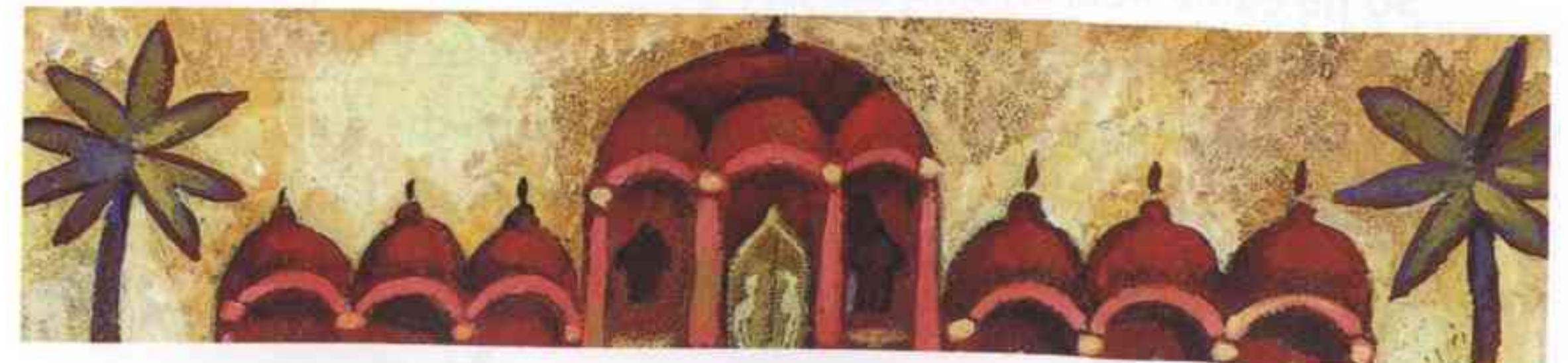
"I am a Prince and I escaped ¹⁰..... the Tartars", I ¹¹.....

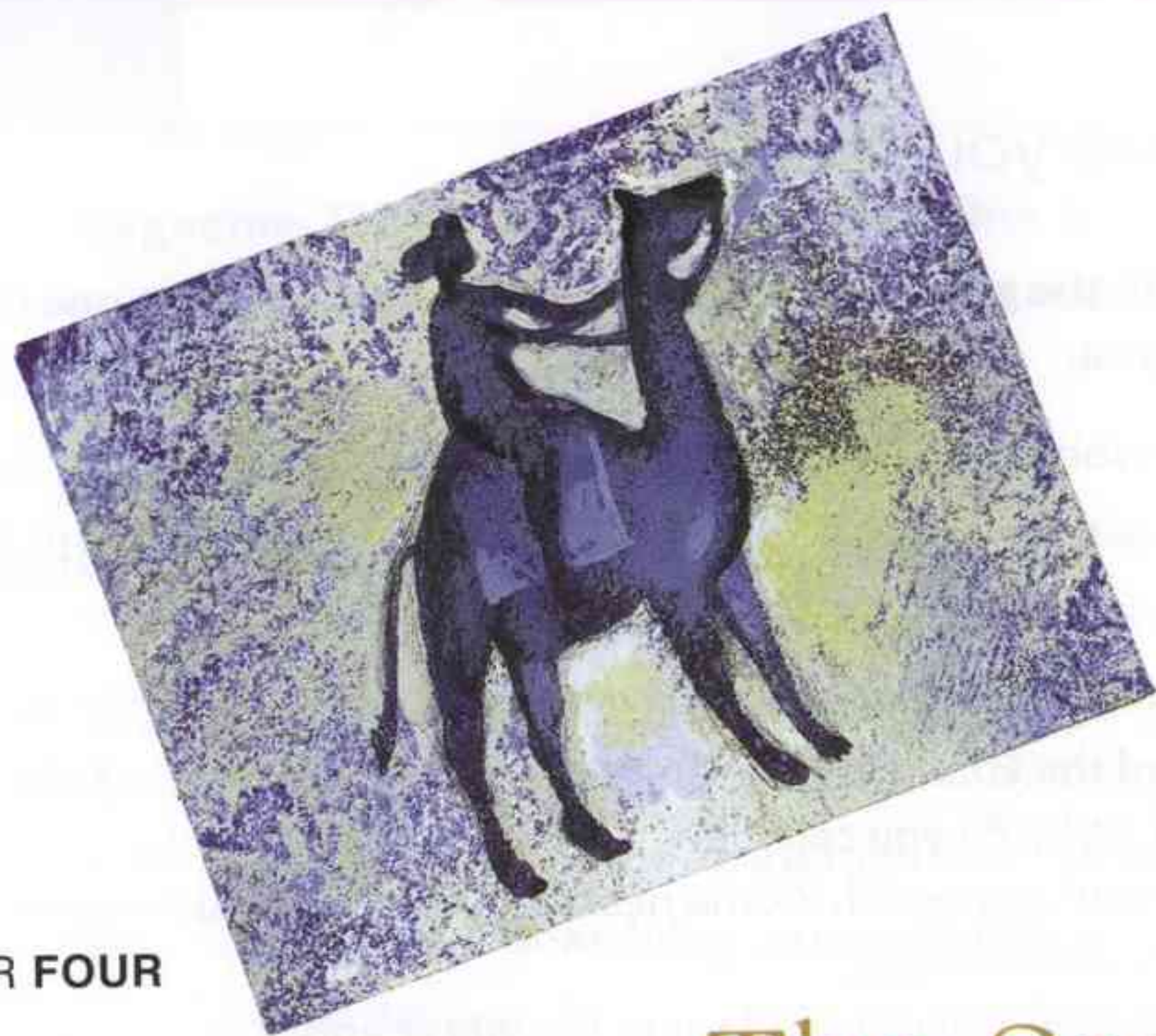
'He lowered his head as a sign of respect and took my hand.

'Then we left the country of the Tartars and we travelled in many strange lands and saw many strange people. I travelled ¹²..... a camel next to the chief. There were forty camels in the caravan and eighty mules.'



Now listen to the recording to check your answers.





CHAPTER FOUR

The Soul's First Journey



After a year, the soul came down to the sea and called the young fisherman. He came out of the sea, and said, 'Why do you call me?'

The soul answered, 'Come nearer. I want to speak to you because I saw marvellous things.'

So he came nearer, and sat in the water and listened.

The soul said to him, 'When I left you, I went towards the East and travelled. Everything wise¹ comes from the East. After six days I came to the land of the Tartars. One night I saw a fire in a

1. wise : if you are wise you have experience and intelligence.

The Soul's First Journey

camp of a company of merchants. I went to them and the chief of merchants stood up and took his sword.¹

"Who are you?" he asked.

"I am a Prince and I escaped from the Tartars," I replied.

'He lowered his head as a sign of respect and took my hand.

'Then we left the country of the Tartars and we travelled in many strange lands and saw many strange people. I travelled on a camel next to the chief. There were forty camels in the caravan and eighty mules.

'During our journey we battled with the tribe of the Magadae. They are born old and grow younger every year, and die when they are little children. We battled with the Laktroi. They think they are the sons of tigers, and they paint their bodies yellow and black. We also battled with the Sibians. They have horses' feet and they run quicker than horses.

'In the fourth month we arrived in the city of Illel. It was night and we waited for day to come.

That morning we knocked at the gate of the city. The gate was of red bronze and it had images of sea-dragons and dragons with wings.²

'A guard then said to us, "What do you want?"

"We are from the island of Syria and we have a lot of merchandise to sell," we answered.

"Then wait here until midday," he said.

'At midday they opened the gates and we went to the marketplace.

1. sword [sɔ:d] :



2. wings :





'After a month in the city of Illel, I became tired of it. I walked in the streets of the city and came to the garden of the god of the city. The priests in their yellow tunics walked silently in the garden. There was a red house. This was the home of the god. The doors had images of golden animals and peacocks on them.

'There was a pool of clear water in front of the temple. I sat down near it. One of the priests came to me and stood behind me.

"What do you want?" he asked me.

"I want to see the god," I replied.

"The god is hunting in a forest," said the priest, and he looked at me strangely.

"Which forest is he in? Tell me, and I will go there," I answered.

'He moved his hands on his soft tunic. "The god is asleep," he murmured.

"Which bed is he in? Tell me, and I will stand near him," I answered.

"The god is at the feast," he cried.

"I will drink bitter¹ or sweet wine with him," I said.

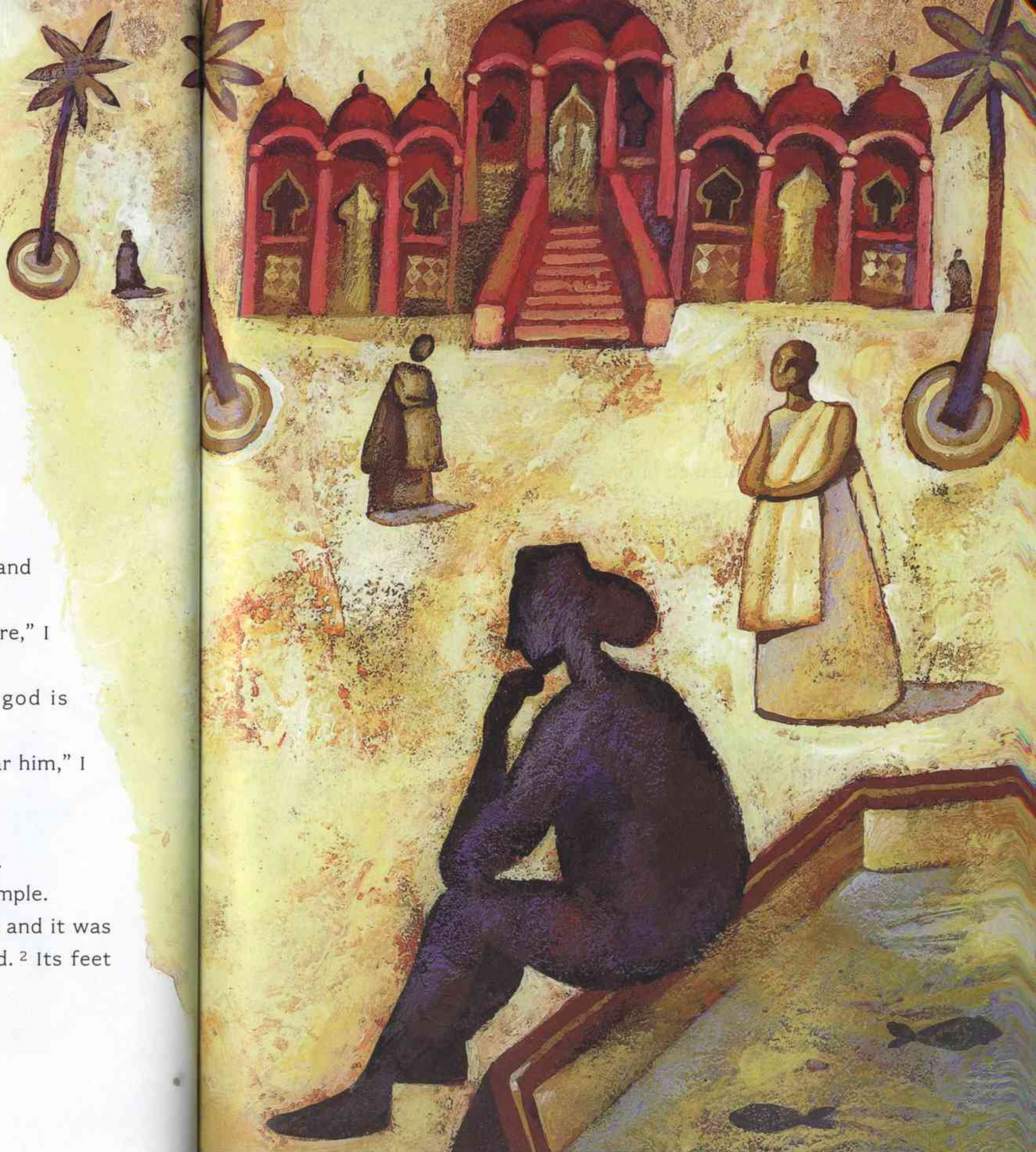
'He was surprised and accompanied me into the temple.

'In the first room I saw an ebony idol on a throne and it was the size of a man. There was a ruby on its forehead.² Its feet were red from the blood of a baby goat.³

1. **bitter** : the opposite of 'sweet'.

2. **forehead** : the part of your face above your eyes.

3. **goat** :



The Fisherman and his *Soul*

'I said to the priest, "Is this the god?"

"This is the god," he answered.

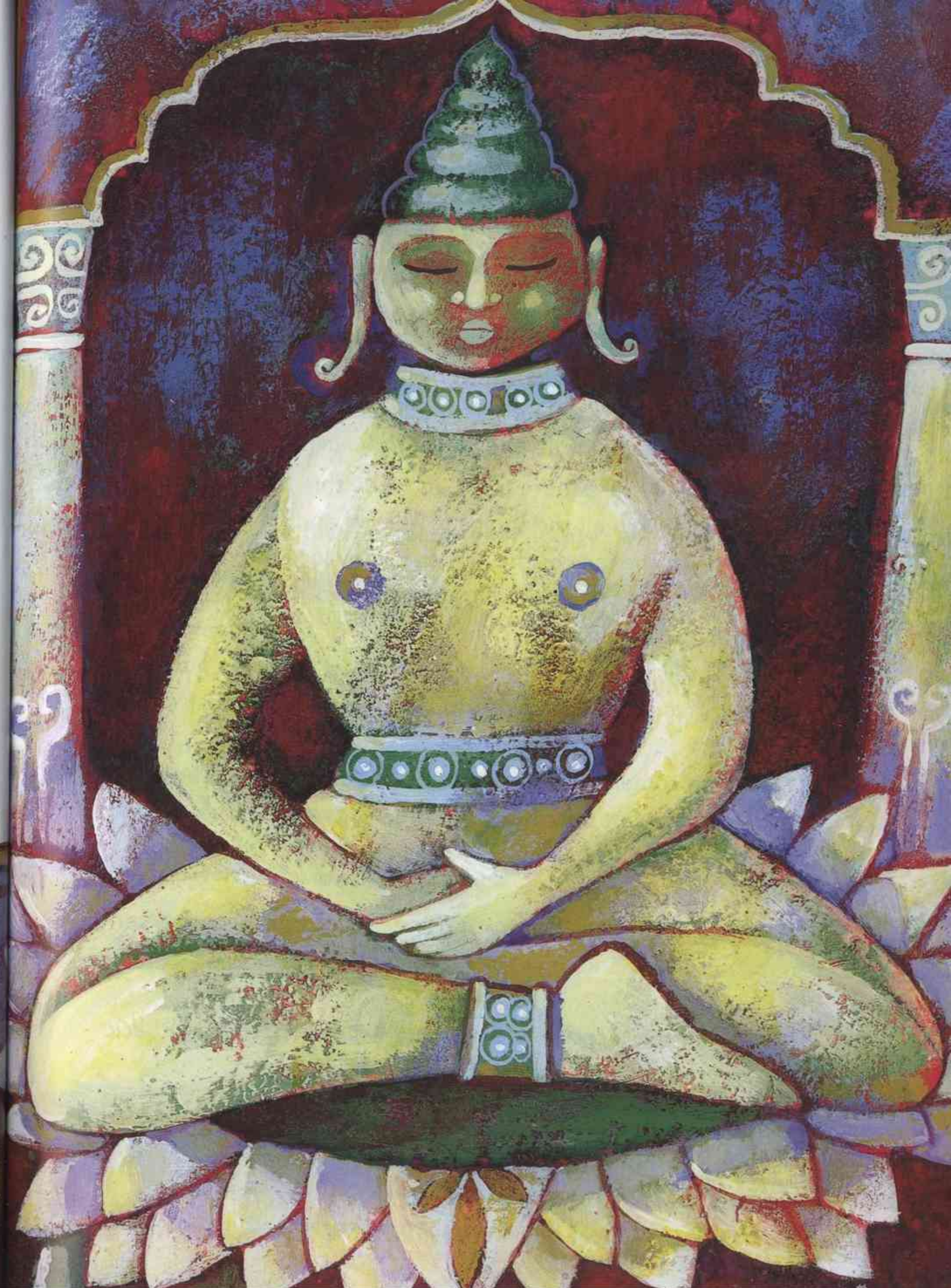
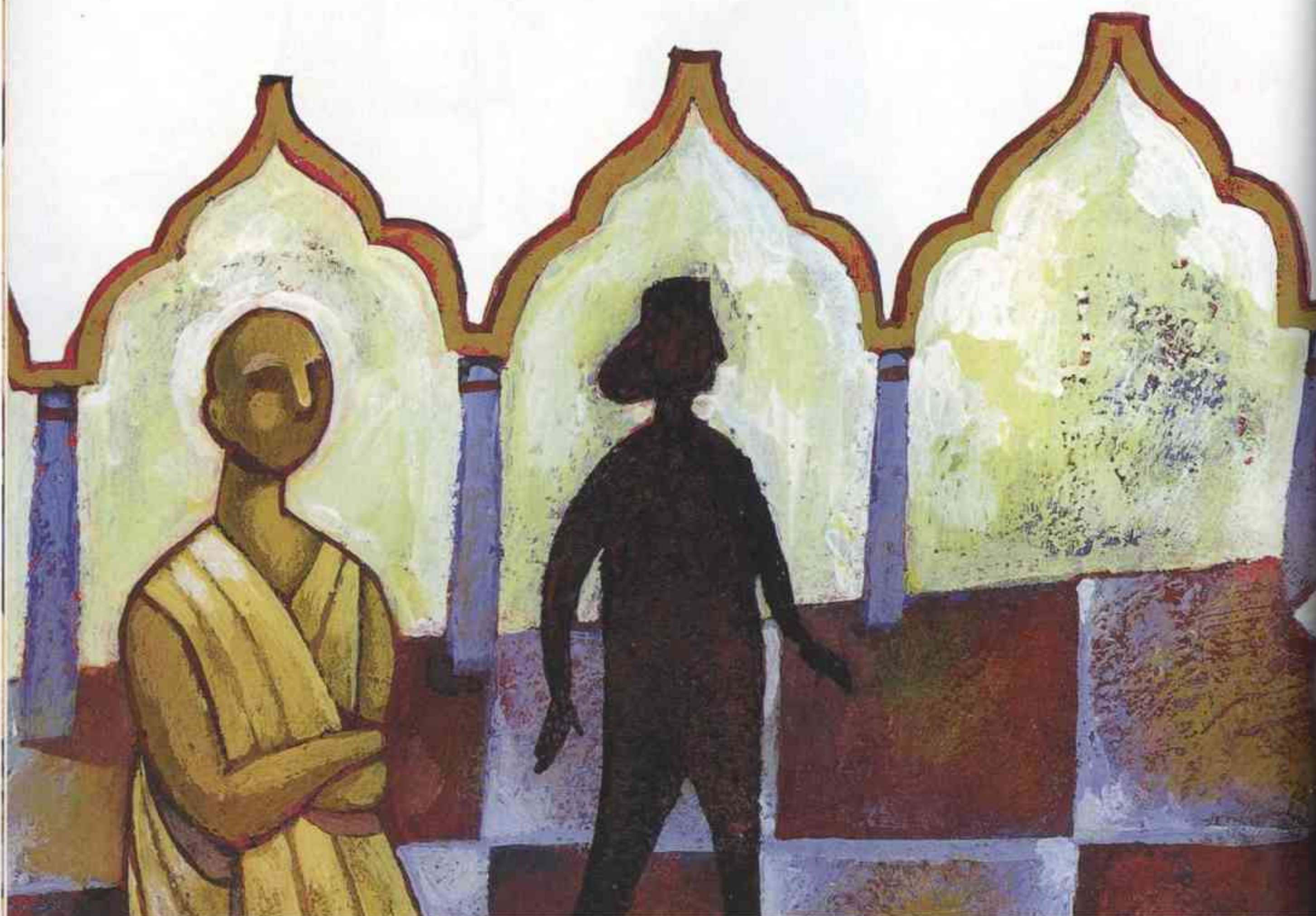
"This is not the god. Show me the god," I cried, "or I will kill you." I touched his hand, and it became small and dry.

"Make my hand better, and I will show you the god," he cried.

'So I breathed on his hand, and it became better. He trembled and accompanied me into the second room. I saw an ivory idol on a lotus of jade with great emeralds on it. This idol was twice as big as a man.

"Is this the god?" I asked him.

"This is the god," he replied.



"This is not the god. Show me the god," I cried, "or I will kill you!" I touched his eyes, and they became blind.¹

"Please make my eyes better. Then I will show you the god," he cried.

'So I breathed on his eyes and they could see again. The priest trembled and accompanied me into the third room. There was not an idol in it, only a mirror.

'I said to the priest, "Where is the god?"

'He answered me, "There is no god, but this is the Mirror of Wisdom.² It reflects all the things in heaven and on earth. But it does not reflect the face of the person if they look into it. So, this person can become wise. There are many other mirrors, but they are mirrors of Opinion. This is the only Mirror of Wisdom. When you possess this mirror, you know everything. So, it is a god, and we pray to this god." I looked into the mirror. The priest didn't lie.³

'Then I did something strange, but it is not important. I placed the mirror in a valley near here. We can walk there in three days. Let me enter you again and be your servant, and you will have wisdom.'

But the young fisherman laughed. 'Love is better than wisdom,' he cried, 'and the little mermaid loves me.'

'No, there is nothing better than wisdom,' said the soul.

'Love is better,' answered the young fisherman. He went back to the sea, and the soul walked away and cried.

1. **blind** : if you are *blind* you cannot see.

2. **Wisdom** : if you have *wisdom*, you have experience and intelligence.

3. **lie** : when you *lie*, you don't tell the truth.

Go back to the text

1 Answer the questions below.

- When did the soul come to see the fisherman again?
- What comes from the East?
- Who were the Magadae and the Laktroi?
- Why did the soul make the hand of the priest small and dry?
- What does the Mirror of Wisdom do?
- Where did the soul put the Mirror of Wisdom?
- What bad things did the soul do? Why did he do them?

2 Your opinion

The soul says 'then I did something strange'. What did he do?

- ☐ He touched the priest's eyes again and took the Mirror of Wisdom.
- ☐ He came back when the priest left and took the Mirror of Wisdom.
- ☐ He told the priest about the fisherman and gave him the Mirror.
- ☐ He killed the priest and took the Mirror of Wisdom.

3 Writing

Love is better than wisdom

Pretend you meet the fisherman, and he asks you, 'Which is better for me, love or wisdom?'. Write your answer in about 100 words. You can begin like this:

My dear fisherman, you sent away your soul for love, and now your soul wants to come back to you and give you wisdom. I think that love/wisdom is better because

.....



What about you? Which is better for you, love or wisdom?

PET 4 Summary

Read the summary of the first four chapters and choose the correct word for each space. For each question, mark the letter next to the correct word — A, B, C or D.

There was a fisherman. Every evening he went fishing. One evening his nets were (1) heavy. He pulled them in and saw (2) mermaid. The mermaid tried to escape. He released her because she promised to sing for him. Her song attracted many fish, but soon the fisherman forgot his nets. He was (3) love with the mermaid. He asked her to marry him. She said yes, (4) first he had to send away his soul. The fisherman did not know how to do that. He went to the priest for help. The priest said, 'the soul is (5) precious than all the gold in the world.' The fisherman then went and talked to (6) merchants. Finally, he went to see a witch. She knew how to send away his soul. But first he had to dance with her (7) a mountain top (8) midnight. (9) night the fisherman went and danced with her. He held her and forced her to tell him the secret. She told him. His soul did not want to leave, but the fisherman sent (10) away. Now the fisherman could marry the mermaid.

After a year, the soul came to the sea and called the fisherman. He told the fisherman (11) his travels to the East. He brought back the Mirror of Wisdom. But the fisherman said, 'love is (12) than wisdom,' and he returned to his love.

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| 1 A very | B much | C many | D such |
| 2 A the | B this | C that | D a |
| 3 A at | B in | C to | D on |
| 4 A and | B but | C so | D though |
| 5 A much | B most | C very | D more |
| 6 A these | B any | C some | D those |
| 7 A at | B to | C in | D on |
| 8 A in | B from | C at | D on |
| 9 A This | B That | C The | D A |
| 10 A he | B his | C her | D him |
| 11 A about | B around | C on | D regarding |
| 12 A most | B better | C more | D much |

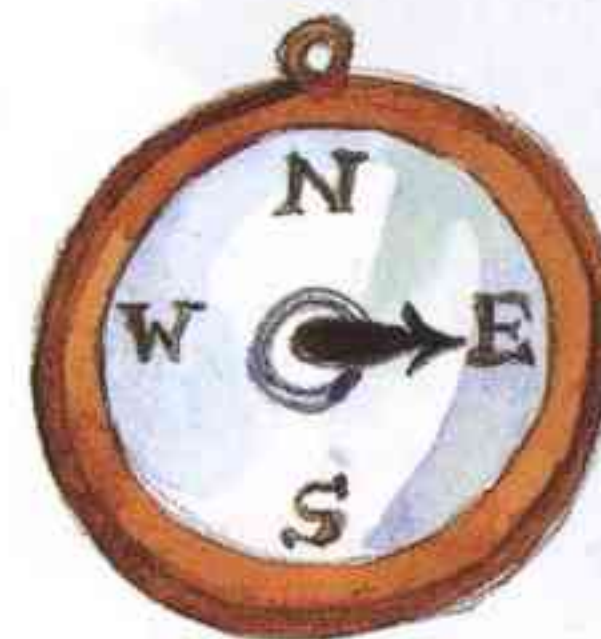
Before you read



1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Five. For each question, choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

1 In which direction did the soul travel?



A ☐



B ☐

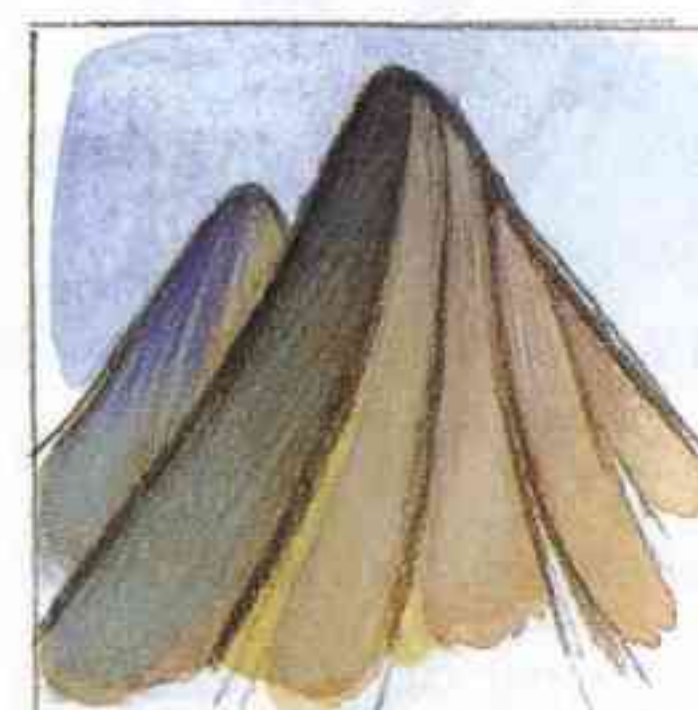


C ☐

2 What is Ashter?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

3 Where do the strange perfumes come from?



A ☐



B ☐

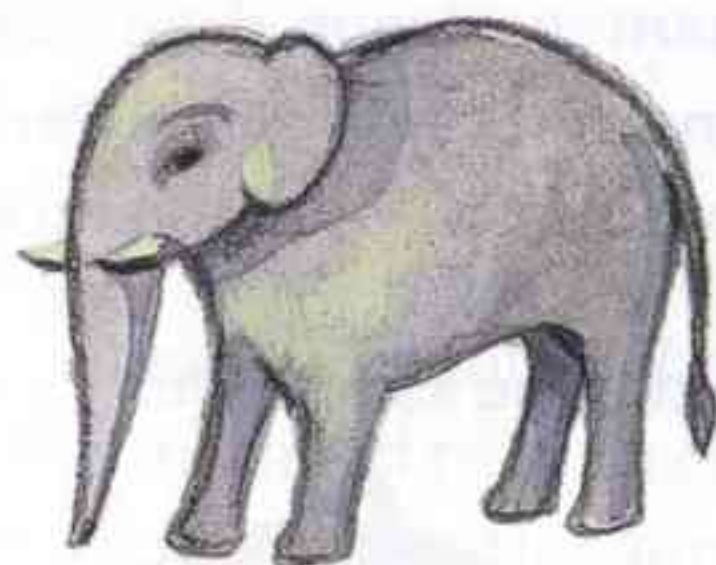


C ☐

4 The soul saw an animal eat some oranges. What kind of animal?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

5 What do the people buy when they are happy?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

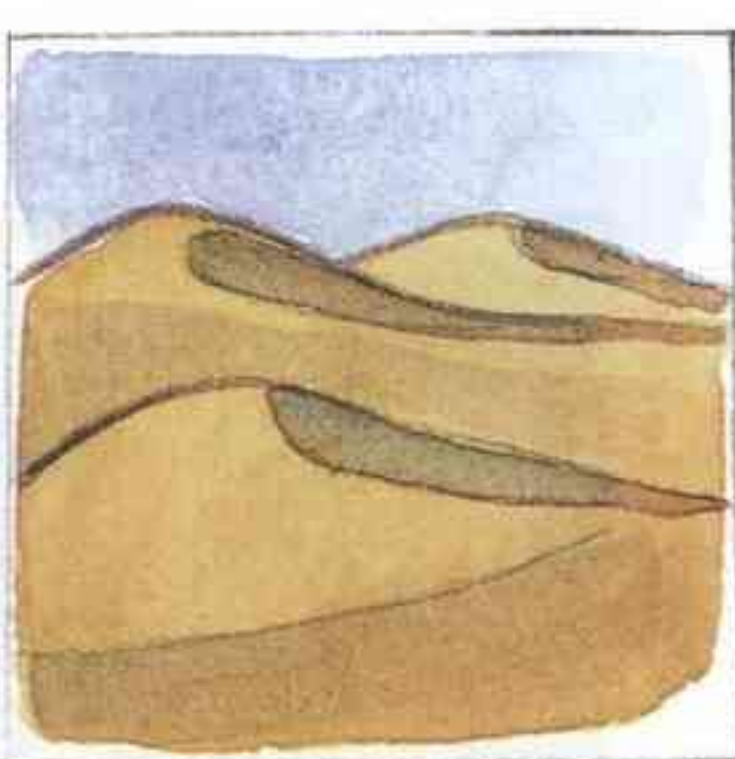
6 Where did the guards take the soul?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



CHAPTER FIVE

The Ring of Riches



After the second year, the soul came down to the sea and called the young fisherman. He came out of the sea and said, 'Why do you call me?' 6

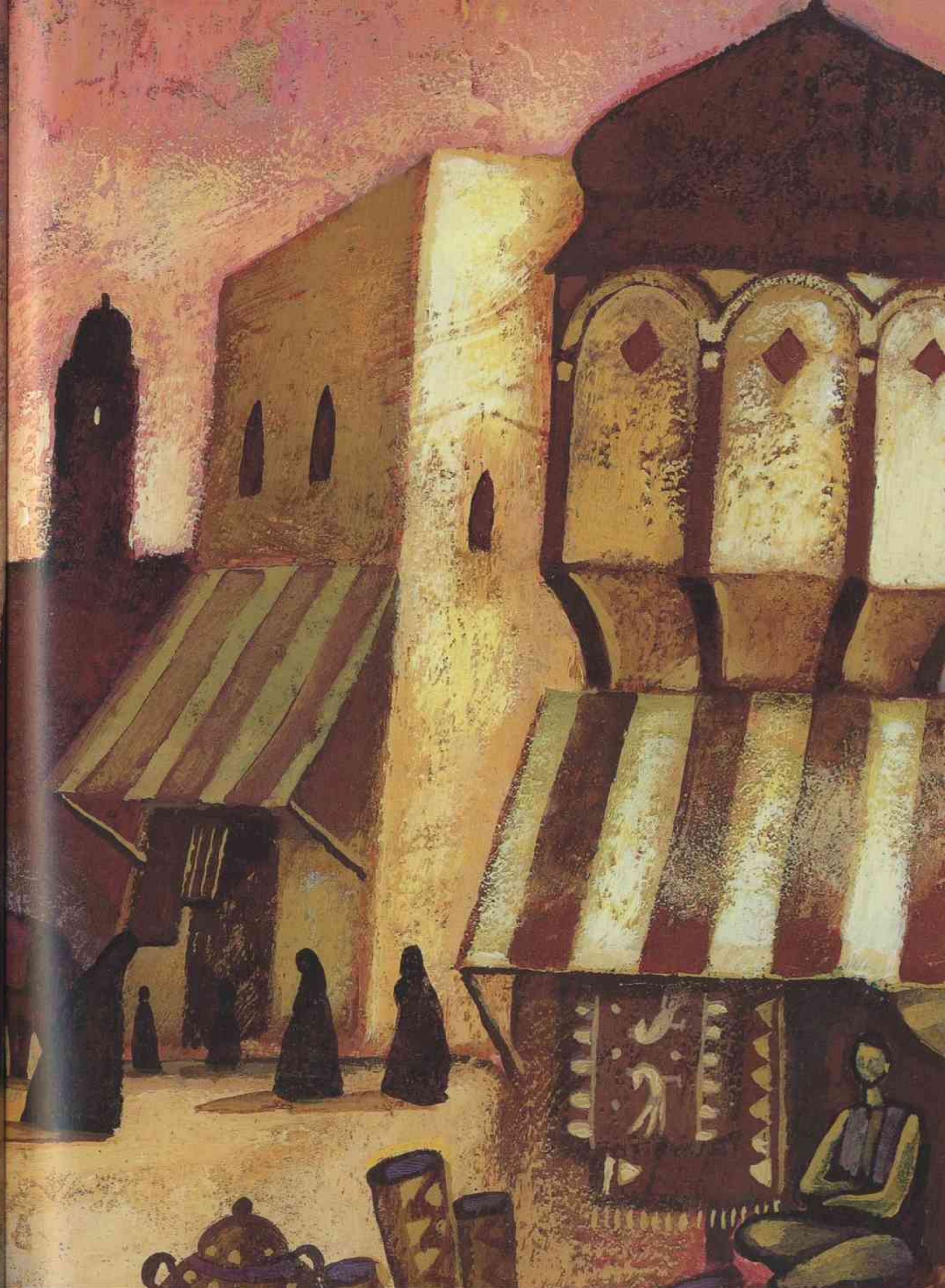
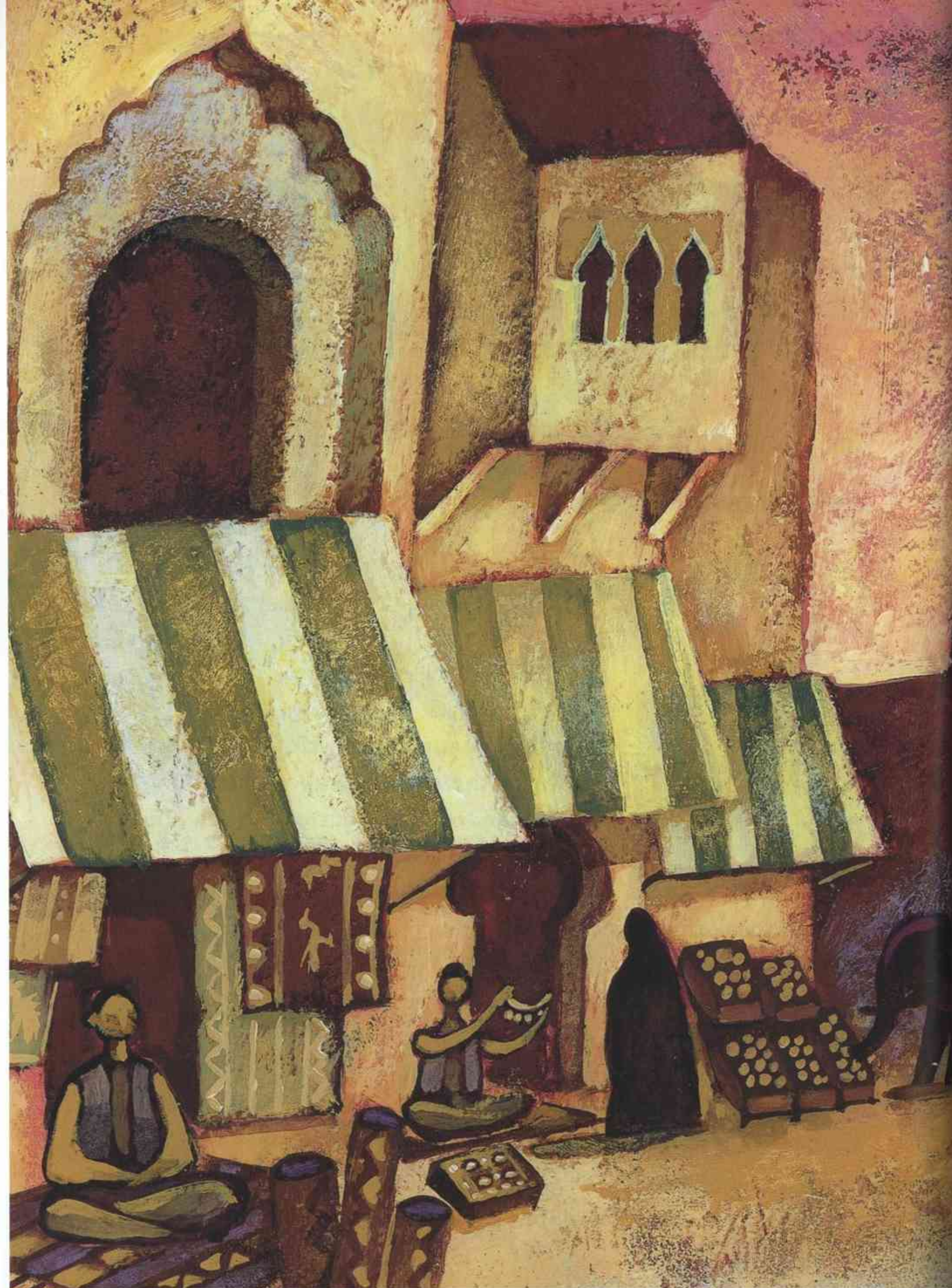
The soul answered, 'Come nearer. I want to speak to you because I saw marvellous things.'

So he came nearer, and sat in the water and listened.

The soul said to him, 'When I left you, I went towards the South and travelled. Everything precious comes from the South.'

'I travelled six days to the city of Ashter. I saw the city on the morning of the seventh day.'

'The city is like a bazaar. It is wonderful. Merchants sit on silk carpets. Some of them sell strange perfumes from the islands of the Indian Sea, and the oil of red roses. Other merchants sell



fantastic jewellery with tiger claws¹ in gold and leopard claws in gold also.

'The people sell all kinds of fruit: purple figs, yellow melons, white grapes, red-gold oranges and oval lemons of green gold. I saw an elephant. It stopped and began eating the oranges and the people laughed. You cannot imagine how strange these people are. When they are happy they buy a bird in a cage.² Then they release the bird because they want to be happier. When they are sad they hit their bodies with thorns³ because they want to be sadder.

'On the feast of the New Moon, the Emperor came out of his palace and went into the mosque to pray. The people covered their faces, but I showed him no form of respect.

'That night the guards of the Emperor came for me. They accompanied me into the palace. We walked across a great court and then we entered a beautiful garden. At the end of the garden there was a pavilion. Then the captain of the guard told me to enter.

'The young Emperor was there on a bed of lion skins, and he held a falcon. A Nubian stood behind him. A large scimitar of steel⁴ was on a table next to the bed.

'When the Emperor saw me he was worried, and said to me, "What is your name? Don't you know that I am Emperor of this city?" I did not answer him.

'He indicated the scimitar, and the Nubian took it and hit me with great violence. It did not hurt me. The Nubian was terrified and went away.

1. claws [klo:z] :



2. cage :



3. thorns :



4. steel : a hard, strong metal.

END



'The Emperor tried to kill me with a lance but he didn't hurt me. He tried to kill me with an arrow,¹ but I stopped it in the air. Then the Emperor said to me, "Why can't I hurt you? Are you a prophet or the son of a prophet? Please leave my city tonight. You are here now and I am not its lord."

'I answered him, "Give me half of your treasure. Then I will go away."

1. arrow:



'So, he took my hand and accompanied me to a large room. He touched one of the walls and it opened. Then we walked down a corridor. He said a magic word and a granite door opened. The Emperor covered his eyes with his hands to protect them from the light of the jewels there. It was really marvellous inside. There were huge tortoise-shells full of pearls, and many other wonderful jewels.

'Then the Emperor said to me, "This is my house of treasure, and half of it is yours. But you must go tonight. My father the Sun must not see this: I cannot kill a man in the city."

'I answered him, "The gold and all the precious jewels are yours. I only want your little ring."

'The Emperor frowned. ¹ "It is only a ring of lead," ² he cried, "and it has no value. Take your half of the treasure and go away from my city."

"No," I answered, "I know that it is really the Ring of Riches."

'The Emperor trembled and said, "Take all the treasure and go from my city. You can also have my half of the treasure."

'Then I did something strange, but it is not important. What is important is that I put the Ring of Riches in a cave. You can arrive there in one day. The owner of this Ring is richer than all the kings of the world.'

But the young fisherman laughed. 'Love is better than riches,' he cried, 'and the little mermaid loves me.'

'No, nothing is better than riches,' said the soul.

'Love is better,' answered the young fisherman. He went back to the sea, and the soul walked away and cried.

1. frowned :



2. lead : a grey metal with little value.

Go back to the text

PET 1 For each question, choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

1 According to the soul, what comes from the South?

- A ☐ love
- B ☐ wisdom
- C ☐ everything precious
- D ☐ prophets

2 The Emperor's guards came for the soul because

- A ☐ he showed no respect to the Emperor.
- B ☐ the Emperor wanted to show him his jewels.
- C ☐ he thought the people of Ashter were strange.
- D ☐ he wanted the Emperor's riches.

3 The Emperor was not the lord of his city because

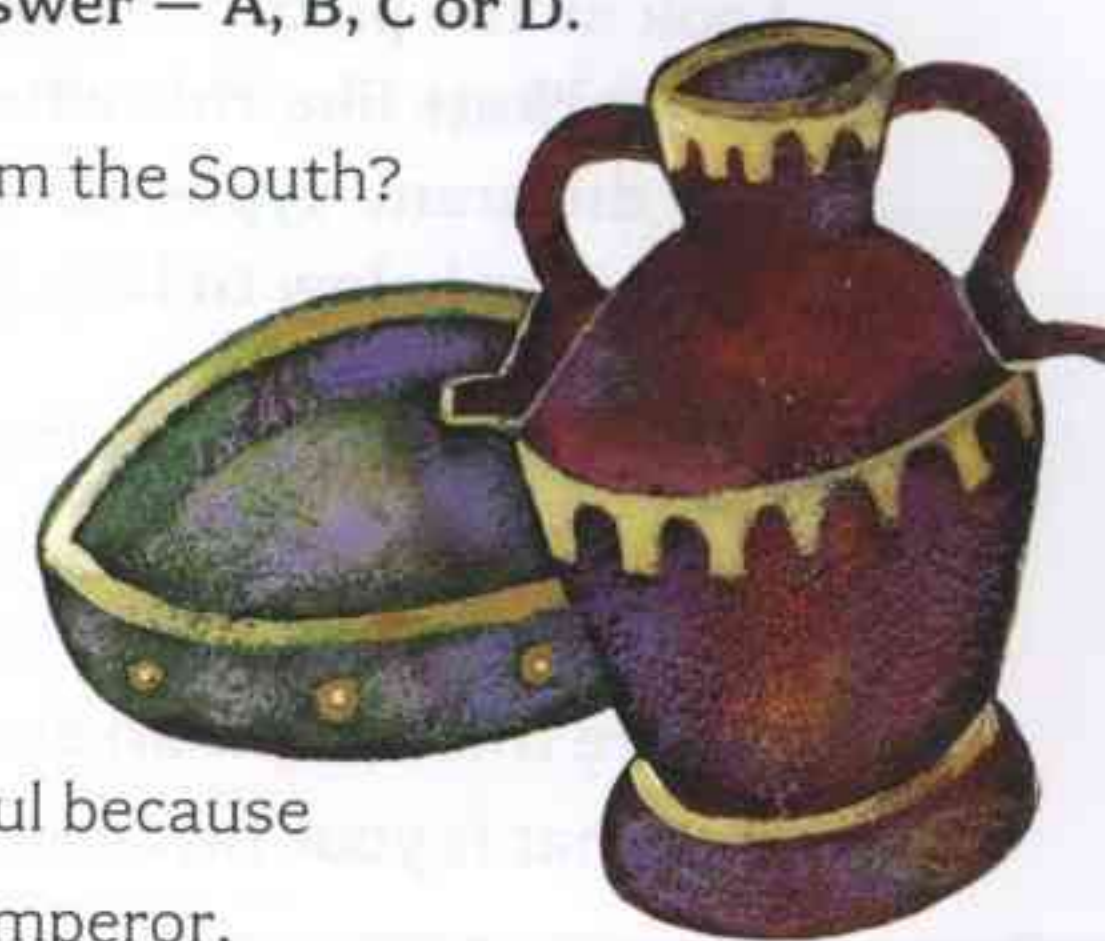
- A ☐ the soul was richer than he was.
- B ☐ he thought the soul was a great prophet.
- C ☐ the Emperor's father the Sun could not kill the soul.
- D ☐ he could not hurt or kill the soul.

4 Finally, the Emperor wanted to give the soul all his treasure because

- A ☐ he thought the soul was a great prophet.
- B ☐ he thought the soul was really his father, the Sun.
- C ☐ he did not want to give him his little ring.
- D ☐ he did not think that riches were very important.

5 The soul took the Emperor's lead ring and not his treasure because

- A ☐ he did not think the Emperor's jewellery was real.
- B ☐ the owner of the ring could have even more treasures.
- C ☐ he thought the ring was beautiful.
- D ☐ he did not think riches were very important.



T: GRADE 4

2 Topic — Shops

Look at the picture of the bazaar on pages 64-5. Are there any open-air markets like this where you live? Prepare a talk for your class on the different types of shops and markets in your town. Use the questions below to help you.

- Describe the shops in your town.
- What do you prefer, large stores with many different kinds of products or small specialised shops?
- Are there any markets in your town? If so, what can you buy there?
- What is your favourite kind of shop? How often do you go there?

3 Vocabulary

Complete this crossword puzzle with words from the first five chapters.

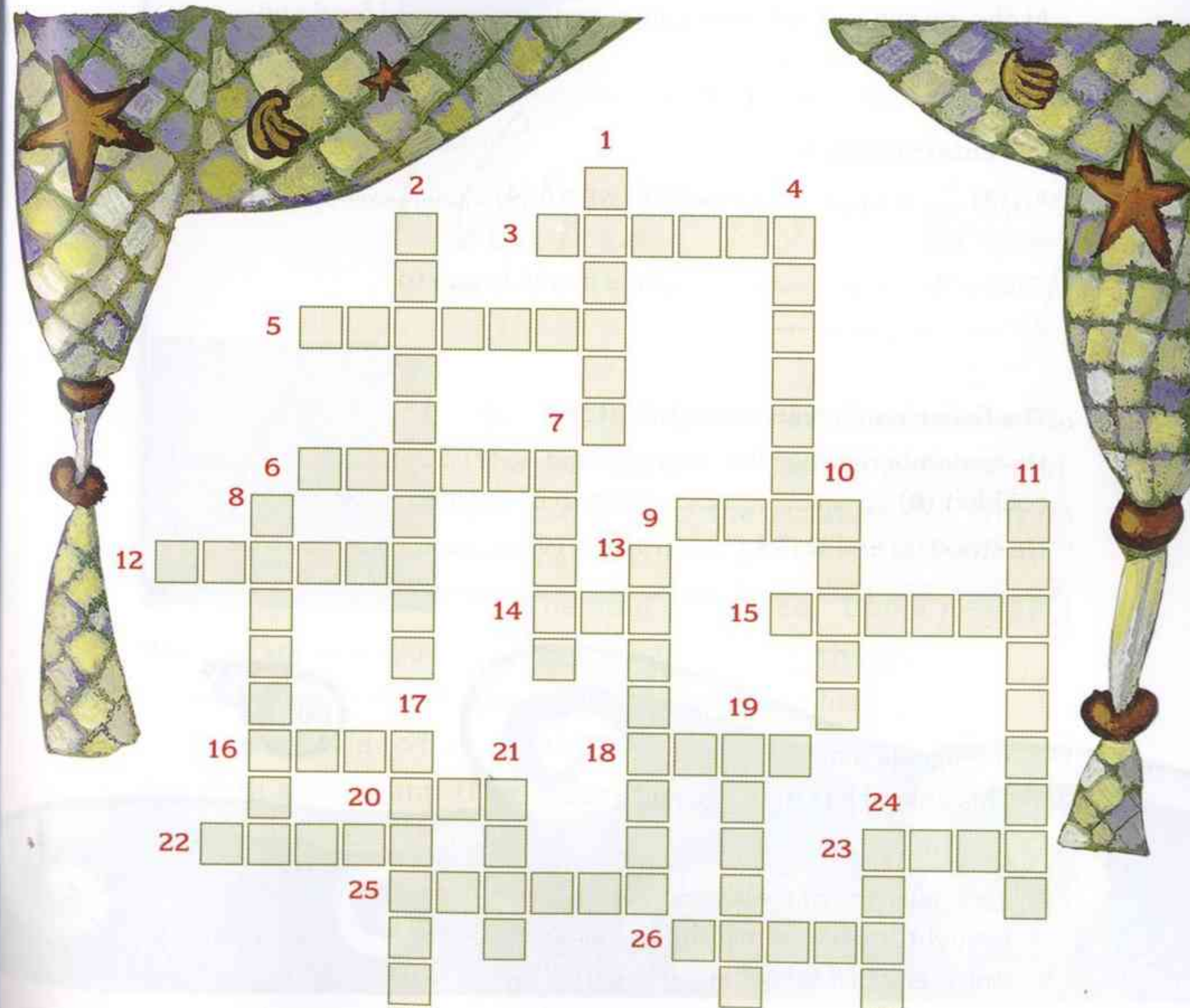
Across

- If you have this, you have experience and intelligence (the Mirror of).
- To talk softly.
- The season before winter.
- Dogs
- The opposite of hell.
- The definite article.
- The opposite of sweet.
- The past simple of 'tell'.
- The opposite of 'to love' is 'to'.
- The opposite of 'in'.
- If you deliberately cause pain and suffering, you are
- This sea mammal can come onto the land.
- A religious man.
- This animal has four legs and you can ride it.

Down

- Look into one of these, and you will see your reflection (the soul brought the fisherman the of Wisdom).
- Another word for 'afraid' or 'scared'.

- A horrible creature (at first, the fisherman thinks he has a in his nets).
- East, West, South and
- The opposite of son (the mermaid was the only of a king).
- You use this to cut things.
- Make 'strange' an adverb.
- This person buys and sells things.
- This mammal lives its whole life in the water.
- A creature with a man's top and a fish's bottom.
- The opposite of 'fat'.
- A hard, strong metal.



Before you read

7 1 Listening

PET

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Six. You will hear the soul talking about his visit to an inn (a small hotel with a restaurant). For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

The Inn

The inn

The inn was near a (1) in a city.

At the inn the soul sat with sailors and they ordered food and (2)

The entertainment

An (3) came in with a (4) and a lute.

Then a (5) came in and began to (6)

The fisherman's reaction to this story

He remembered that the mermaid had no (7) and couldn't (8), and so he decided to go to the inn.

He stood up and walked towards the (9)



CHAPTER SIX

The Soul's
Third Journey

After the third year, the soul came down to the sea and called the young fisherman. He came out of the sea and said, 'Why do you call me?'

The soul answered, 'Come nearer. I want to speak to you because I saw marvellous things.'

So he came nearer, and sat in the water and listened.

The soul said to him, 'I went to an inn¹ near a river in a city. I sat with sailors and they ordered food and drink. After some time an old man entered with a carpet and a lute. He put the carpet on the floor. When he played the lute, a girl came in and

1. inn : a small hotel with a restaurant.

The Fisherman and his *Soul*

began to dance. There was a veil on her face, and she had no shoes. Her feet moved on the carpet like little white pigeons. It was really marvellous and it is only one day away from here.'



The young fisherman heard these words. He remembered that the little mermaid had no feet and could not dance. He thought, 'It is only one day away, and I can return to my love.' He laughed, stood up in the water and walked towards the beach.

END

When he reached the beach, his soul ran towards him and entered him. Then the young fisherman saw on the sand the shadow of the body, the body of the soul.

They began their journey, and the next evening they came to a city.

The young fisherman said to his soul, 'Does she dance in this city?'

His soul answered him, 'Not in this city, but another. Let's enter this city anyway.'

So they entered and walked in the streets. The young fisherman saw a silver cup on a stall¹ in the Street of the Jewellers. His soul said to him, 'Take that silver cup and hide it.'

So he took the silver cup and hid it, and they went quickly out of the city.

When they were far from the city, the young fisherman threw the cup away. He said to his soul,

'It was not a good thing to take the cup and hide it!'

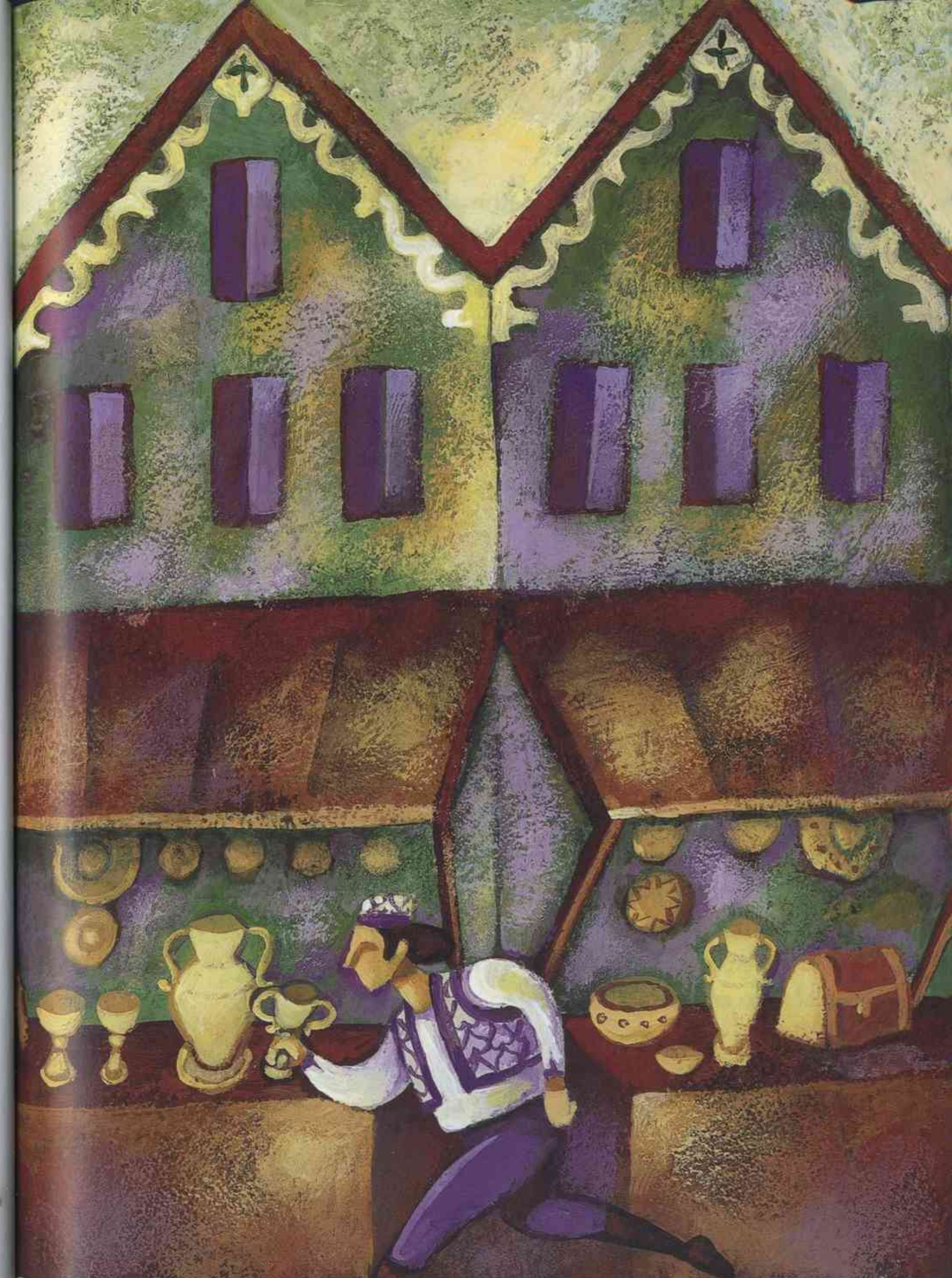
But his soul answered him, 'Calm down, calm down.'

On the evening of the second day they came to a city. The young fisherman said to his soul, 'Does she dance in this city?'

His soul answered him, 'Not in this city, but in another. Let's enter this city anyway.'

So they entered and walked in the streets. In the Street of the Sellers of Sandals, the young fisherman saw a child. His soul said

1. stall: you find this type of table in a market.



to him, 'Hit that child!' So he hit the child, and the child cried, and then they went quickly out of the city.

When they were far from the city, the young fisherman became angry and said to his soul, 'It was not a good thing to hit the child!'

But his soul answered him, 'Calm down, calm down.'

On the evening of the third day they came to a city. The young fisherman said to his soul, 'Does she dance in this city?'

His soul answered him, 'Perhaps this is the city. Let's enter.'

They walked in the streets, but the young fisherman could not find the inn near the river. He wanted to leave, but his soul said to him, 'Let's stay here tonight. Perhaps there are robbers¹ outside.'

So the fisherman sat down in the marketplace. After some time a merchant came and said to him, 'Why are you here? The market is closed.'

The young fisherman answered him, 'I can't find an inn in this city. I have no family here and I need a room for the night.'

'We are all of the same family,' said the merchant, 'and one God made us. Come with me. I have a room.'

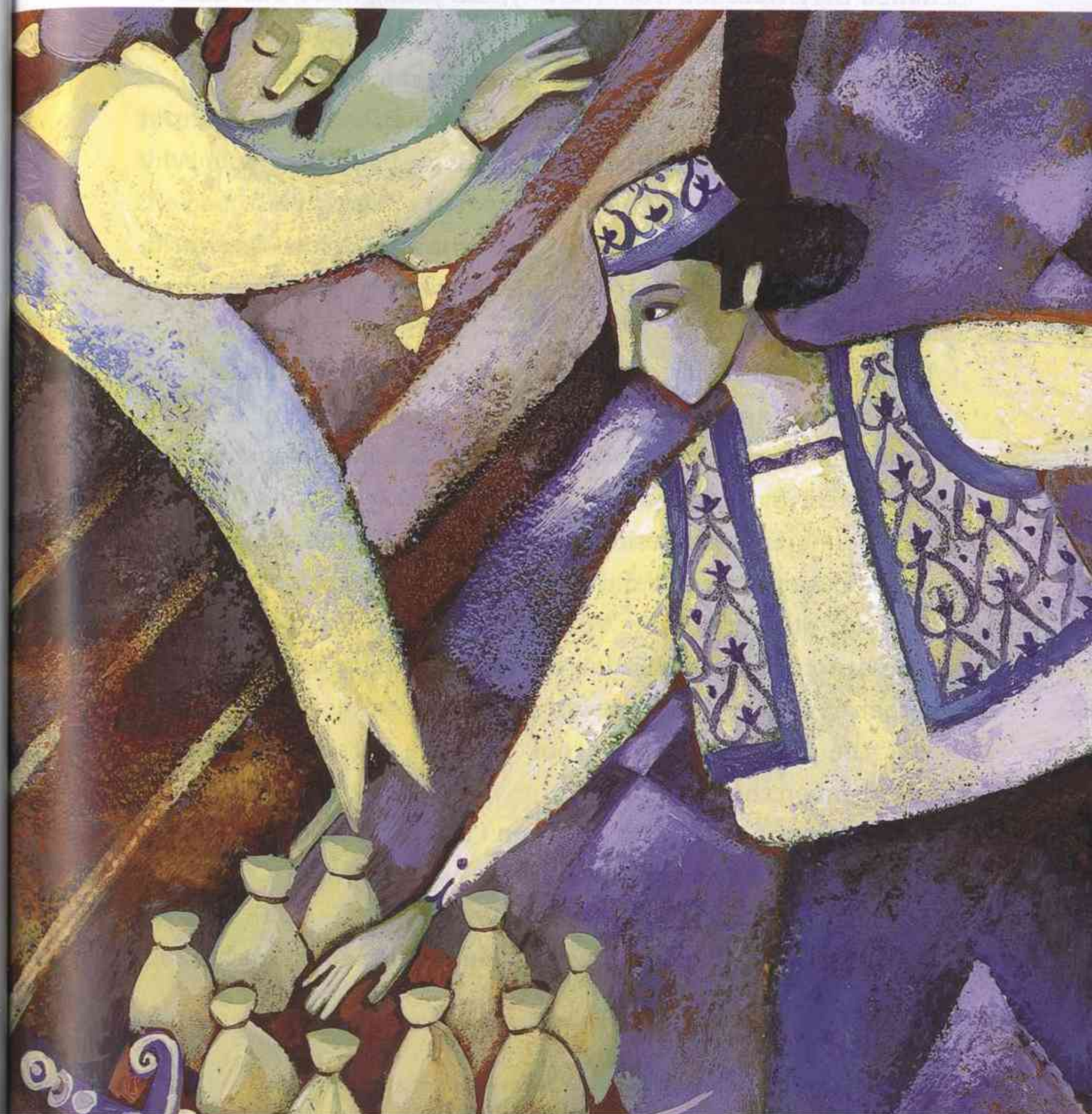
The young fisherman followed the merchant to his house. The merchant gave him good food and a comfortable room. The young fisherman then went to sleep. After three hours his soul woke him and said, 'Go to the room of the merchant and kill him, and take his gold.'

The young fisherman went into the merchant's room. There was a sword near his feet, and nine purses² of gold next to the

1. **robbers** : these people take things illegally, often with violence.

2. **purses** : small bags for holding money.

bed. When he touched the sword, the merchant woke up and said, 'Why do you want to kill me? I gave you good food and a room. I was kind to you!'



His soul said to the young fisherman, 'Hit him!' So he hit him and the merchant lost consciousness. He then took the nine purses of gold, and went quickly away from the city.

When they were far from the city, the young fisherman said to his soul, 'It was bad to hit the merchant and take his gold!'

But his soul answered him, 'Calm down, calm down.'

'No,' cried the young fisherman, 'I cannot be calm. You told me to do bad things and I hate these things. I also hate you. Why did you do these things?'

His soul answered him, 'When you sent me out into the world, you did not give me a heart. So I learned to do all these things and love them.'

'What are you saying?' murmured the young fisherman.

'You know,' answered his soul. 'You did not give me a heart. So stay calm. You will give other people all kinds of pain,¹ and you will receive all kinds of pleasure.'

The young fisherman said to his soul, 'No, you are bad, and I forgot about my love and did many bad things because of you.'

His soul answered him, 'You did not forget that you sent me away without a heart. Let's go to another city and enjoy life together. We have nine purses of gold.'

But the young fisherman took the nine purses of gold, and threw them on the ground.

'No, I will not come with you, and I will send you away again,' said the young fisherman.

He turned his back to the moon. With the little knife he tried to cut his shadow from his feet to eliminate his soul. But his soul

1. **pain** : (here) unhappiness and suffering.

did not leave him, and said to him, 'The magic of the witch will not work.¹ It only works once in a man's life. I will stay with you forever, and this is your punishment and your recompense.'

Now the young fisherman was desperate and cried because his soul was very bad. When it was day the young fisherman said to his soul, 'I will tie my hands together.² Then I cannot do what you tell me to do. I will return to the bay because my love sings there. I will call her. I will tell her about the bad things I did and the bad things you did to me.'

When he arrived on the beach, he freed his hands and called the mermaid. But she did not come.

His soul laughed at him and said, 'Your love gives you little joy. Come with me to the Valley of Pleasure. That is better for you.'

The young fisherman did not answer his soul. He built a house by the bay and lived there for a year. Every morning he called the mermaid, and every midday he called her again, and at night he spoke her name. But she never came to see him, and he did not see her anywhere.

His soul always asked him to do bad things. But the young fisherman never listened to him because the power of his love was so great.

1. **work** : (here) have the desired result.

2. **I will tie my hands together** :



Go back to the text

PET 1 Look at the statements below about Chapter Six. Decide if each statement is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, write A as your answer. If it is not correct, write B as your answer.

- 1 The fisherman wanted to see the mermaid after he heard about the girl at the inn.
- 2 The soul took the fisherman directly to the dancing girl.
- 3 The fisherman was sorry that he took the silver cup.
- 4 The fisherman did not hit the child.
- 5 The merchant offered the fisherman a room because the fisherman offered him some gold.
- 6 The fisherman's soul did not like doing bad things.
- 7 The fisherman wanted to send his soul away again, but he couldn't.
- 8 The fisherman stopped doing the bad things in the end.

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8

Now correct the incorrect statements.

2 Your opinion

Answer the questions below about the fisherman and his soul.

- a. What bad things did the soul and the fisherman do?
- b. Why is the soul so bad?
- c. Why did the fisherman do these bad things? Choose from the answers below.
 - i. ☐ He became bad because he lived with the creatures from the sea. The priest was right.
 - ii. ☐ He wanted to see the dancer very much, so he listened to the soul.

- iii. ☐ He has no soul. The priest was right: a man becomes bad without a soul.
- iv. ☐ He did not know that they were bad.
- d. Why did the fisherman finally stop doing all these bad things?
 - i. ☐ He remembered his love, and he only did bad things because he wanted to see the dancer.
 - ii. ☐ He did not need money in the sea.
 - iii. ☐ He was afraid.
 - iv. ☐ He finally understood that they are bad.
- e. The soul says, 'You will give other people all kinds of pain, and you will receive all kinds of pleasure'. In your opinion, why does he say this?



'Hit him!'

To express affirmative commands in English we can use the second-person imperative. The form of this imperative is the **infinitive without 'to'**:

Come here!

Talk louder please!

We use **don't** for the negative imperative:

Don't talk so loud!

Don't run!

There is also a first-person imperative in English. It is formed with **let's** (let us) + the **infinitive**. We use it to make suggestions:

I'm hungry. Let's stop at the inn and have something to eat.

It's hot. Let's go to the beach and swim in the sea.

3 The imperative

- A Find five examples of the imperative in this chapter.
- B Write imperative sentences for each situation below using the verbs in the box. The sentences can be affirmative, negative or first-person imperatives. You must decide according to the context.

worry answer promise buy
~~turn down~~ put on go drive

Example: *You are trying to concentrate and your brother is listening some music loudly.*
You say: Turn down the music!

- a. It is snowing and your friend is driving very quickly.
 You say: '.....'
- b. You and your friend want to go out this evening. You want to see a film.
 You say to your friend: '..... to the cinema this evening.'
- c. Your mother is going to buy some milk, but you see that there is a lot of milk in the fridge.
 You say: '..... We already have some.'
- d. A mother sees that her child is going outside without his coat. It is very cold outside.
 She says: '..... your coat.'
- e. You have an English exam and you think it is very difficult.
 Your friend says to you: '....., it's not that difficult. You'll do really well!'
- f. The phone rings and you are in the bath.
 You say to your sister: '.....'
- g. The fisherman wants to be certain that the mermaid will sing for him when he releases her.
 He says to her: '..... that you will sing for me.'

Children's literature *in the 1800s*

During the 1800s children's literature became important for two reasons. Firstly, printing techniques continued to improve. Secondly, the middle class continued to grow. Middle-class children went to school for longer, and 'childhood' became a separate state. However, poor children still began working at very young age. There were more and more books just for children. In fact, during the 1800s about 10% of the books published in England were for children.

One of the most important types of children's literature was the fairy tale. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, many people became interested in folk tales.¹ Perhaps the most famous collectors of folk tales were two German brothers, Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm (1785-1863) and Wilhelm Karl Grimm (1786-1859). In 1812 and 1815 they published their famous collection of folk stories called *Children's and Household Tales*. The collection included such famous stories as 'Snow White', 'Hansel and Gretel' and 'Rapunzel'. Their folk stories were a mixture of realism and the most incredible fantasy. The mixture was, and still is, extremely popular with children.

Soon writers began to invent their own folk stories. The most famous of these was the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen (1805-75). He wrote many stories between 1835 and 1872. They had a lot in common with real folk stories, but they also presented more complex psychological descriptions. Some of his most famous stories are 'The Little Mermaid', 'The Ugly Duckling', 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'Thumbelina'.

1. folk tales : these stories come from popular culture.

In England many writers followed Andersen's example. Oscar Wilde was one of them. Oscar Wilde's fairy tales were certainly for his own children, in part. His son Vyvyan wrote that when he and his brother became tired of playing, their father told them 'fairy stories, or tales of adventures [...] He told us all his own written fairy tales...' Wilde never even wrote down many of his stories. In fact, he was famous for his ability to invent stories on the spot.¹ His stories are not only for children. In fact, Wilde said that 'my fairy tales are not for children, but for childlike people from eighteen to eighty!'

But there were many other kinds of books for children in England in the late 1800s. At this time, nonsense writing became very popular. Although nonsense has no logical meaning, it often has great poetic meaning. Edward Lear published his great book of nonsense poems, *A Book of Nonsense*, in 1846. A mathematician, Lewis Carroll (1832-98), wrote two of the greatest nonsense books ever: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (1872).

There were also more realistic stories. For example, *Tom Brown's School Days* (1857) talks about all the problems a boy can have at school. Then there were great adventure stories like Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* (1883) and *Kidnapped* (1886), and Rudyard Kipling's *Kim* (1901). Kipling is also famous for *The Jungle Book* (1894), about a little boy raised by wolves in the Indian jungle.

In the late 1800s illustrations became increasingly important for children's books. Before this time most children's books had few illustrations. With more improvements in printing (colour illustrations, for example, became possible in the 1870s), there was an explosion in illustrations. One of the greatest artists was John Tenniel: his illustrations of Lewis Carroll's books are nearly as famous as the stories.

1. on the spot : spontaneously, without thinking.

Another great illustrator was the American Howard Pyle (1853-1911). He wrote and illustrated books about pirates, Robin Hood and heroes of the Middle Ages such as *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* and *The Story of King Arthur and his Knights*. Pyle put the action of the stories into his illustrations. His style of drawing influenced the cartoons and comics of today.



The Sack of Carthage from *The Fate of a Treasure* (1905)
by Howard Pyle.

1 Answer the questions below.

- a. Why did children's literature become more important during the nineteenth century?
- b. What is the difference between the stories of the brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen?
- c. Name two famous stories by Hans Christian Andersen.
- d. Who did Oscar Wilde write his fairy tales for?
- e. What is nonsense writing?
- f. How did the role of illustrations in children's literature change in this period?
- g. What kinds of books did the American illustrator Howard Pyle write? Do you ever read these kinds of books?

INTERNET PROJECT

Three famous illustrators

Find out something about each of the following three illustrators: Richard Doyle, John Tenniel and Howard Pyle.

Follow these instructions to be directed to the correct web site.

Connect to the Internet and go to www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it. Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Open the page for *The Fisherman and his Soul*. Click on the project link symbol @. Go down the page until you find the title of this book and click on the link with the symbol @. Find out:

- ▶ When and where these three artists were born
- ▶ What some of their most famous works are
- ▶ Which one had a very, very famous nephew
- ▶ Which one of them is also famous for the books that he wrote

Then download and print your favourite illustrations and show them to the class.

Before you read

1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Seven and fill in the gaps in the text.

After another year, the soul thought, 'I tempted him ¹ bad, and his love is stronger than I am. I will now tempt him with good, and ² he will come with me.'

So he spoke to the young fisherman and said, 'I told you about the ³ of the world, and you did not listen to me. Now I will tell you about the pain in the world, and maybe you will listen. Pain is the Lord of this world, and ⁴ can escape it. ⁵ people do not have clothes and other people do not have ⁶, and others are ill. Come, let's go and ⁷ these people. Why do you wait here for your love? What is love? Why do you think it is so important?'

But the young fisherman did not answer. The power of ⁸ love was so great. Every morning he called the mermaid, and every ⁹ he called her again, and at night he spoke her name. But she never came to see him, and he did not see her anywhere.

After the second year, the soul said to the fisherman, 'I tempted you with bad, and I tempted you with good, and your love is stronger than I am. So, I will not tempt you anymore, but can I please enter your heart and be with you ¹⁰?'

'Of course you can enter,' said the young fisherman. 'I am sure you suffered ¹¹ you did not have a heart.'

Now read the text and check your answers.





CHAPTER SEVEN

Love



After another year, the soul thought, 'I tempted him with bad, and his love is stronger than I am. I will now tempt him with good, and perhaps he will come with me.'

So he spoke to the young fisherman and said, 'I told you about the joy of the world, and you did not listen to me. Now I will tell you about the pain in the world, and maybe you will listen. Pain is the Lord of this world, and nobody can escape it. Some people do not have clothes and other people do not have food, and others are ill. Come, let's go and help these people. Why do you wait here for your love? What is love? Why do you think it is so important?'

Love

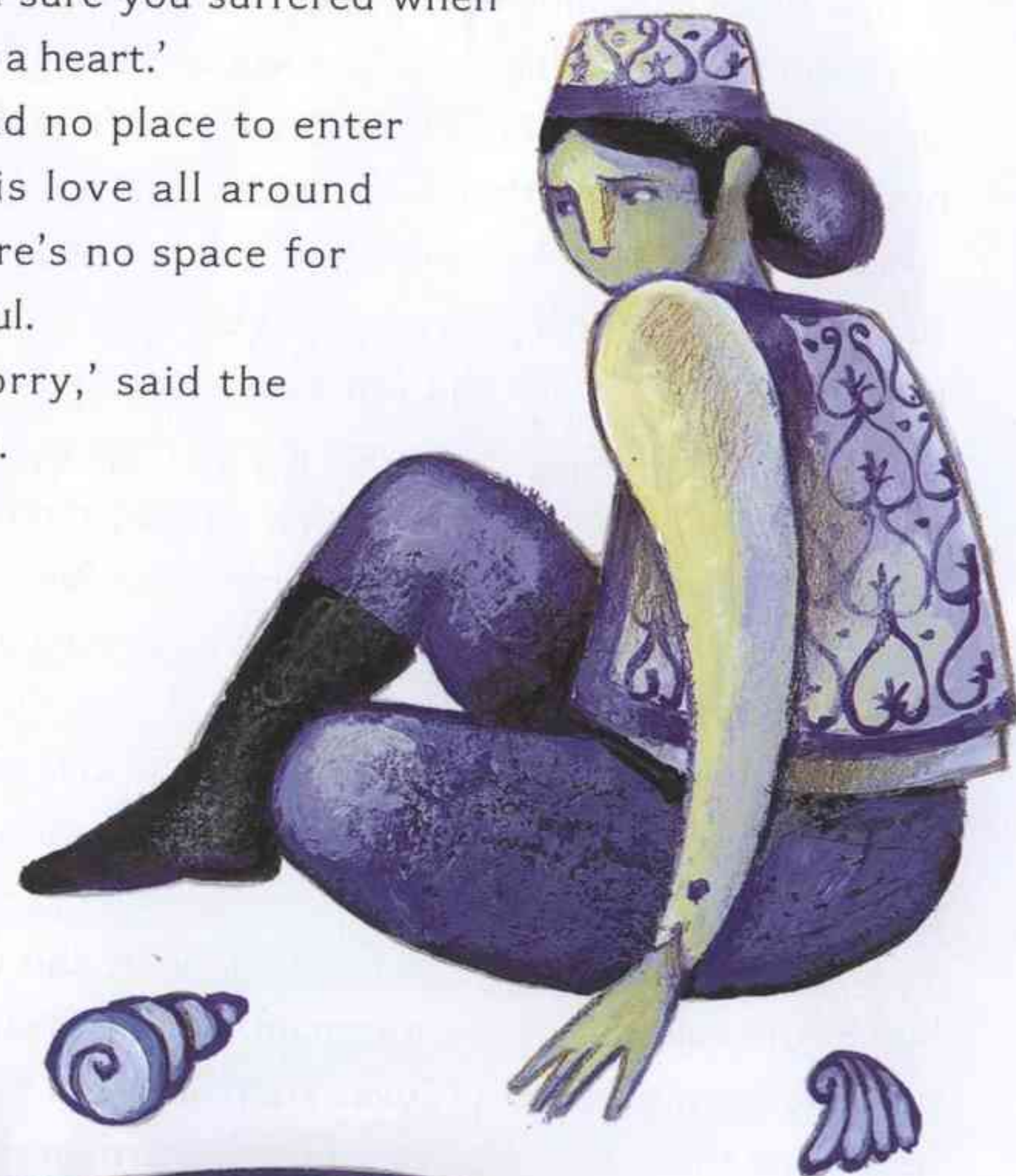
But the young fisherman did not answer. The power of his love was so great. Every morning he called the mermaid, and every midday he called her again, and at night he spoke her name. But she never came to see him, and he did not see her anywhere.

After the second year, the soul said to the fisherman, 'I tempted you with bad, and I tempted you with good, and your love is stronger than I am. So, I will not tempt you anymore, but can I please enter your heart and be there with you again?'

'Of course you can enter,' said the young fisherman. 'I am sure you suffered when you did not have a heart.'

'But I can find no place to enter because there is love all around your heart. There's no space for me,' cried the soul.

'I am very sorry,' said the young fisherman.



The Fisherman and his *Soul*

Just then he heard a terrible cry of sadness from the sea. The young fisherman ran to the beach. The black waves came quickly to the beach. They carried something that was whiter than silver. There at his feet the young fisherman saw the dead body of the little mermaid.

He sat down next to her, and he kissed her cold red mouth. He told the dead mermaid about his soul and all the bad things. He put her little hands around his neck, and he touched her neck with his fingers. His joy was bitter, and his pain was full of strange happiness.

The black sea came nearer and nearer to them.

'Run away,' said his soul. 'The sea is coming closer and closer. Go away! It will kill you. Run away to a safe place. But please do not send me into another world without a heart.'

But the young fisherman did not listen to his soul. He said to the little mermaid, 'Love is better than wisdom, and more precious than riches, and more beautiful than the feet of the daughters of men. I called you in the morning, but you did not come. The moon heard your name, but you did not listen to me. I was bad when I abandoned you. But your love was always with me, and it was always stronger than bad and good. And now that you are dead, I will die with you also.'

His soul implored him to leave. But his love was too great and he did not listen to his soul. The sea came near and tried to cover him with its waves.

When he knew that the end was near, the young fisherman kissed the cold lips of the mermaid, and his heart broke. It broke because it was so full of love. Then the soul finally entered his heart, and the sea covered the young fisherman with its waves.



Go back to the text

1 Summary

Match the phrases in columns A and B to make true sentences.

- A
- ☐ The soul tempted the fisherman with good
 - ☐ The fisherman did not come with the soul when the soul tempted him with good
 - ☐ The fisherman permitted the soul to enter his heart
 - ☐ The soul could not enter the fisherman's heart
 - ☐ The fisherman was not afraid of dying
 - ☐ The soul finally entered the fisherman's heart
 - ☐ The fisherman's heart broke
 - ☐ The fisherman died
- B
- because the mermaid was already dead.
 - because it was so full of love.
 - because the sea covered him with its waves.
 - because the fisherman did not come when he tempted him with bad.
 - because there was no space for him.
 - because the soul suffered without a heart.
 - because it broke and made space for the soul.
 - because the power of his love was so great.

'He put her little hands around his neck'

Remember that in English possessive adjectives and pronouns:

- change according to the person or thing that possesses:
*This is the witch's dog → This is **her** dog → this is **hers**.*
*This is the fisherman's boat → This is **his** boat → This is **his**.*
- do not change when the object possessed is plural:
***my** friend / **my** friends*
- are used when we talk about parts of the body and clothes:
*He put **her** little hands around **his** neck.*
*She took off **her** green hat.*
- possessive pronouns substitute possessive adjectives and nouns:
*That is **his** house → That is **his**.*

2 Possessive adjectives and pronouns

Fill in the chart below with the correct adjectives and pronouns.

Subject pronouns	Possessive adjectives	Possessive pronouns
I		
		yours
he	his	
	her	
it		its
	our	
you		
they		



3 Fill in the gaps with the correct possessive adjective or pronoun.

- A. Has the young fisherman got a boat?

B. Yes, that is boat near the island.

A. Are you certain that is ?

B. Yes, I am.
- A. Is that the witch's hat or yours?

B. It's Mine is blue.
- A. Where is my fishing net?

B. net is on the beach.
- A. Is that Sarah's copy of *The Fisherman and his Soul*?

B. No, it's I bought it last week.

..... is on the table.

5. A. What is name?
 B. My name is Oscar.
 A. What is mother's name?
 B. It's Speranza.
 A. Speranza?
 B. Yes, I know. name is rather unusual for an Irish woman.



Before you read

1 Listening

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Eight. Decide if each sentence is correct or incorrect. If it is correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under A for YES. If it is not correct, put a tick (✓) in the box under B for NO.

- | | A | B |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | YES | NO |
| 1 The priest went to the sea alone. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The priest saw only the dead body of the fisherman. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The priest thought that God killed the fisherman. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The people put the fisherman and the mermaid in the Field of the Fullers. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Three years later the priest went to talk to the people about the love of God. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 After the priest saw the strange flowers on the altar he became very sad. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 The flowers had a sweet perfume. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now read the text and correct the incorrect sentences.



CHAPTER EIGHT

The Field of the Fullers¹



In the morning the priest said, 'I will go and bless² the sea because it was not calm last night.' Monks, musicians and many other people went with him.

When the priest reached the beach he saw the young fisherman. He was dead in the water and the body of the little mermaid was in his arms. The priest frowned and said, 'I will not bless the sea or anything in the sea. The young fisherman abandoned God for love, and the punishment of God killed him and his love. Now take his body and the body of

1. **Field of the Fullers** : poor people are buried here.
 2. **bless** : ask God to make sacred.

the mermaid and bury¹ them in the corner of the Field of the Fullers. Do not put any sign there.'

The people put the dead bodies in a deep hole in the corner of the Field of the Fullers. They covered the hole with earth. No sweet herbs grew there.

Three years later on a holy day, the priest went to the chapel to speak to the people about the anger of God.

When he went to the altar, he saw that there were strange flowers on the altar. Their strange beauty worried him and their perfume was sweet. He was particularly happy and he did not understand why he was so happy.

END

He wanted to speak to them about the anger of God. But the beauty of the white flowers worried him, and their perfume was sweet. He did not speak of the anger of God. He spoke of the love of God. And he did not know why he spoke like this.

When he finished speaking, the people cried, and his eyes were full of tears. He was in a dream, and he said to his deacons,² 'What are the flowers on the altar? Where do they come from?'

They answered him, 'We do not know what kind of flowers they are, but they come from the corner of the Field of the Fullers.' The priest trembled, and returned to his house and prayed.

1. **bury** [beri] : put a dead body into a grave and cover it.

2. **deacons** : these people assist the priest.



The Fisherman and his

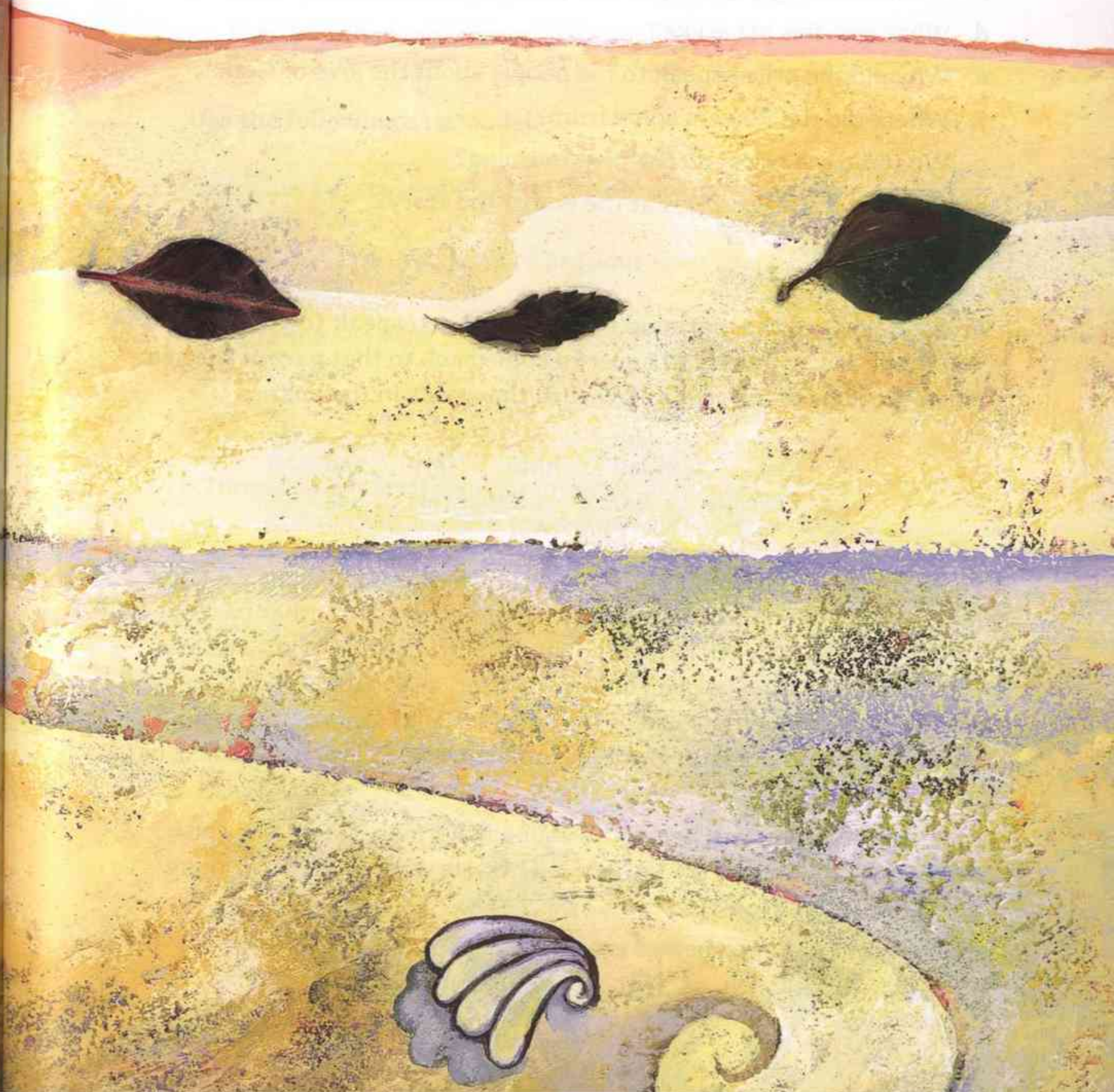
Soul

Early the next morning he left his house with monks, musicians and many other people. He walked to the beach and blessed the sea, and all the wild things in it.



The Field of the Fullers

He also blessed the fauns, and the little things that dance in the forest. He blessed all things in the world of God, and the people were full of joy. But the people of the sea went to another part of the sea, and they never came back again.



Go back to the text

1 Answer the questions below.

- Why did the priest go to bless the sea?
- In the priest's opinion, why did God kill the fisherman and the mermaid?
- Where did they bury the mermaid and the fisherman?
- What was this place like?
- Why did the priest speak to the people about the love of God?
- Where did the flowers come from?
- What did the priest do the next morning?
- Who did the priest bless at the end of the story?

2 Language

Pretend you are the mermaid's father, and you speak to your people. Tell them why you decided never to come back to that part of the sea. Fill in the gaps in the text below with the words in the box.

lost	blessed	hate	left	sad
horrible	dance	daughter	sea	

People of the sea! Listen to me! You all know how (1) I am! My only (2) is dead. Now, we must go to another part of the (3) The priest thought that the people of the sea are (4) , and he even buried my dear, dear daughter in a terrible place called the Field of the Fullers. He (5) us now, but that is not important. Perhaps, tomorrow he will (6) us again.

Also, that other human being, the young fisherman, said 'I love the mermaid', but later he (7) her. He wanted to see a young girl (8)

In short, these human beings are all (9)
I hope we never see them again!

3 Writing

Pretend you are the priest. In about 100 words write about you and the fisherman. In your story say:

- Why the fisherman first came to you
- What you told him
- How you discovered his dead body
- What you felt when you saw the strange flowers
- How you changed your opinion about love

Use the following as a model.

I will always remember when the fisherman knocked on my door. He said, 'I want to'. I replied, 'Your is more precious than

Four years later, I went to the sea. The night before the sea was When I arrived at the beach I saw I told the people to take the and put them in a in

Three years later, I went to the altar to talk about But I saw some strange and I felt So, I did not talk about ; I talked about

So, before I thought that the people of the sea and the animals were Now I them.



Two mermaid tales

'The Fisherman and his Soul' is Oscar Wilde's response to Hans Christian Andersen's famous story 'The Little Mermaid'. It first appeared in 1837 (see the dossier on page 87). These two stories have certain elements in common, but they also have many differences. Read the shortened version of Andersen's story, and then do the activities which follow.

The *Little Mermaid*

The King of the Sea had six daughters. The youngest daughter had a beautiful underwater garden. In the garden there was a marble statue. It was the statue of a handsome prince, and she loved it.

One day their grandmother said to the six mermaids, 'When you are fifteen, you can go to the surface and see the world of the mortals.'

The youngest mermaid wanted to be fifteen very much.

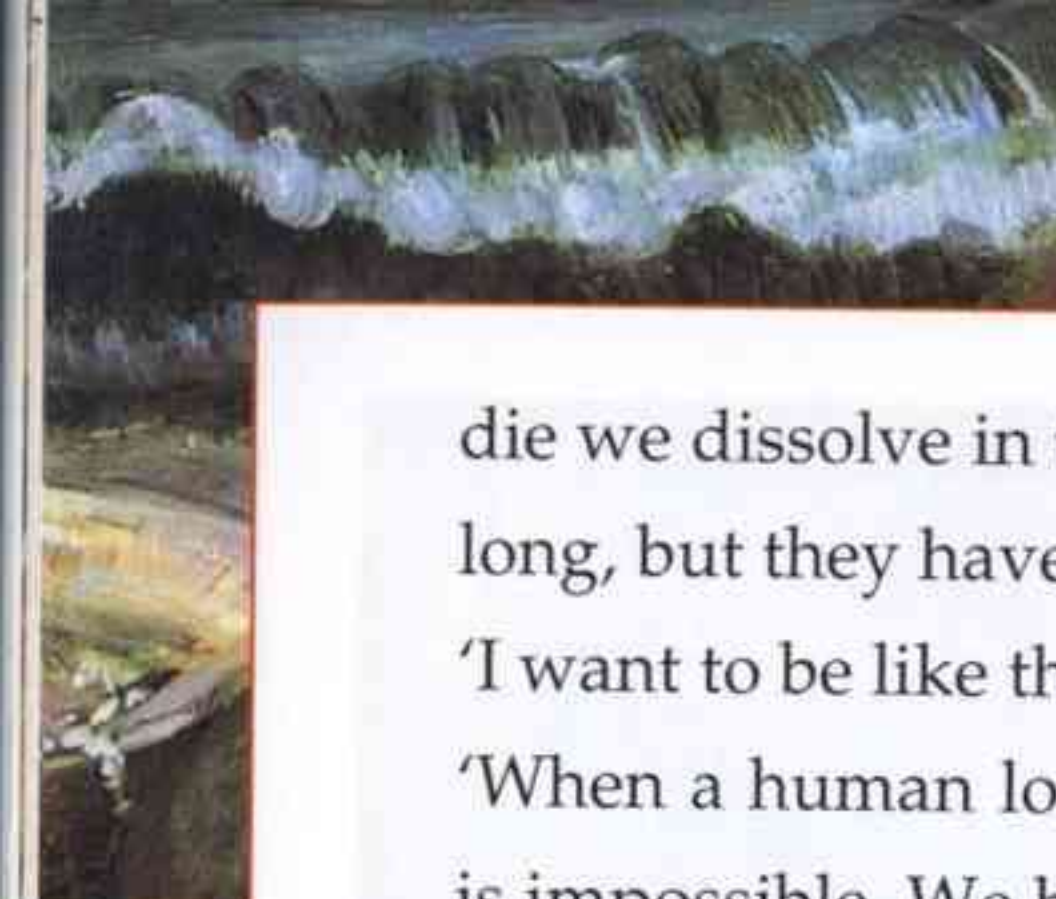
Finally her 15th birthday came and she went to the surface. She saw a beautiful ship. There was a birthday party on the ship for a handsome prince. But a great storm came and broke the ship into pieces. The prince fell into the water. At first the mermaid was very happy, but then she remembered that human beings could not live under water. She took him to the beach and left him there. He did not know that the little mermaid saved his life.

She returned to her home. She was only happy when she put her arms around the statue in her garden, and when she swam near the prince's castle by the sea.

One day she asked her grandmother about humans. Her grandmother said, 'We live for three hundred years, but when we



The Mermaid (1909) by Howard Pyle.



die we dissolve in the water and disappear. Humans do not live very long, but they have an immortal soul that lives forever.'

'I want to be like them,' cried the little mermaid.

'When a human loves you, you can have an immortal soul. But that is impossible. We have tails, and they are very beautiful, but humans think they are ugly. Humans have two ugly things called legs, and they think they are beautiful.'

The little mermaid decided to go to the sea witch for help.

The sea witch said, 'I know why you are here. I will give you a magic drink. You must drink it, and your tail will divide in two, and you will have legs. But you must pay me. You must give me your beautiful voice. Remember, the prince must marry you. If he marries another, you will dissolve in the water and disappear.'

The little mermaid drank the magic drink and then she had legs. The prince saw her, and took her into his castle. He liked her very much, but he did not want to marry her. In fact, after some time, he married a human princess.

On the evening of the wedding, the mermaid thought, 'Tomorrow when the sun comes up, I will dissolve in the water. I will disappear.'

But the mermaid's sisters had a knife from the sea witch. They said, 'Kill the prince with this knife, and then you will have your tail again. You will live with us under the water for 300 years.'

When the little mermaid saw the prince, she did not want to kill him and she threw the knife into the sea. Just then, the sun appeared in the sky, but she did not disappear. No, she went up into the sky, and she heard beautiful voices. They were the voices of the daughters of the air. They said to her, 'You must do good things for humans for 300 years, and then you can have an immortal soul and be with God.'

1 Characters

Below are some sentences that compare Andersen's story with Oscar Wilde's. Fill in the gaps with a word or phrase.

- Wilde's mermaid has no sisters, but Andersen's mermaid has five sisters.
- Both mermaids have got beautiful voices.
- In Andersen's story a mermaid loves a human, but in Wilde's story a human loves a mermaid.
- In Wilde's story a human wants to send away his In Andersen's story a mermaid wants to
- Andersen's little mermaid and Wilde's fisherman both go to a for help, and in both stories the wants something in return for her help. In Andersen's story, she wants, and in Wilde's story she wants
- In Andersen's story the little mermaid goes to the prince, but he does not with her, and he a human princess. In Wilde's story the mermaid the fisherman very much, and she him.
- Both stories talk about human legs and feet and the of mermaids. In Andersen's story the grandmother says 'humans think our beautiful tails are'. In Wilde's story, the fisherman leaves the mermaid because his soul tells him about the white of a dancer.
- At the end of Wilde's story, both the mermaid and the fisherman At the end of Andersen's story, we see that the little mermaid will finally after three hundred years.

2 Love stories

Both Andersen's and Wilde's stories talk about love. Which one do you prefer? Why?

PET 1 For each question, choose the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

- 1 What does the mermaid promise the fisherman?
 - A ☐ 'I will sing songs only for you.'
 - B ☐ 'I will sing songs for the fish.'
 - C ☐ 'I will send away your soul.'
 - D ☐ 'I will send you wind for your boat.'
- 2 The fisherman stops fishing because
 - A ☐ he doesn't want to catch a monster.
 - B ☐ he catches enough fish.
 - C ☐ he listens to the mermaid's songs and forgets to fish.
 - D ☐ no fish come when the mermaid sings.
- 3 The merchants say
 - A ☐ 'The soul is more precious than the body.'
 - B ☐ 'The soul is more precious than a false coin.'
 - C ☐ 'The soul is not precious at all.'
 - D ☐ 'The soul is more precious than love.'
- 4 When the fisherman wants to send away his soul, the witch wants him
 - A ☐ to say that she is prettier than the mermaid.
 - B ☐ to dance with her.
 - C ☐ to pray to her master.
 - D ☐ never to call God's name.
- 5 The soul travels to the East because
 - A ☐ he wants to escape from the Tartars.
 - B ☐ everything precious comes from the East.
 - C ☐ everything beautiful comes from the East.
 - D ☐ everything wise comes from the East.

- 6 The Emperor of Ashter gives the soul his treasure because
 - A ☐ he wants the soul to leave him his ring.
 - B ☐ the people of Ashter are strange and generous people.
 - C ☐ he thinks that wisdom is more precious than his treasure.
 - D ☐ he thinks that love is more precious than his treasure.
- 7 The fisherman leaves the mermaid because
 - A ☐ he wants to see the dancer.
 - B ☐ he wants to hear the old man play his lute.
 - C ☐ he is sorry for his soul.
 - D ☐ he stops loving her.
- 8 The soul does bad things because
 - A ☐ it went into the world without the fisherman.
 - B ☐ it went into the world without gold.
 - C ☐ it went into the world without wisdom.
 - D ☐ it went into the world without a heart.
- 9 How does the soul tempt the fisherman with good?
 - A ☐ He tells him to go and help people with problems.
 - B ☐ He tells him to steal gold and have a good time.
 - C ☐ He tells him to forget his love.
 - D ☐ He tells him to go to the Valley of Pleasure and have a good time.
- 10 The soul finally enters the fisherman's heart because
 - A ☐ it breaks when the mermaid does not return.
 - B ☐ the fisherman is sorry for the soul.
 - C ☐ it breaks when the fisherman sees the mermaid's dead body.
 - D ☐ it breaks when the fisherman abandons the mermaid.

- 11 It is strange that the flowers come from the Field of the Fullers because
- A ☐ nobody ever goes there.
 B ☐ no beautiful plants grew there before.
 C ☐ these flowers usually come from the mountain top.
 D ☐ nobody can take the flowers from there.
- 12 When the priest sees the strange flowers on the altar,
- A ☐ he goes to the Field of the Fullers.
 B ☐ he understands that God's love is more important than the soul.
 C ☐ he talks about God's anger, not about God's love.
 D ☐ he talks about God's love, not about God's anger.
- 13 Which of the following sentences best summarises the story?
- A ☐ The soul is the most precious thing of all.
 B ☐ Love is the most important thing of all.
 C ☐ Wisdom is more important than love.
 D ☐ Riches are more important than the soul.

2 Look at the pictures of the fisherman on pages 13 and 95.

- a. Say what the fisherman is doing and how you think he is feeling in each picture.
 b. Say what the differences are between the two pictures.
 c. Which is your favourite picture of the fisherman. Why?

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, www.blackcat-cideb.com or www.cideb.it.

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

Step Two B1.1

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

Verb tenses

Present Perfect Simple: indefinite past with *yet, already, still*; recent past with *just*; past action leading to present situation
 Past Perfect Simple: in reported speech

Verb forms and patterns

Regular verbs and most irregular verbs
 Passive forms with *going to* and *will*
So / neither / nor + auxiliaries in short answers
 Question tags (in verb tenses used so far)
 Verb + object + full infinitive (e.g. *I want you to help*)
 Reported statements with *say* and *tell*

Modal verbs

Can't: logical necessity
Could: possibility
May: permission
Might (present and future reference): possibility; permission
Must: logical necessity
Don't have to / haven't got to: lack of obligation
Don't need to / needn't: lack of necessity

Types of clause

Time clauses introduced by *when, while, until, before, after, as soon as*

Clauses of purpose introduced by *in order to* (infinitive of purpose)

Available at Step **Two**:

- **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**
Lewis Carroll
- **Animal Tales**
- **Around the World in Eighty Days**
Jules Verne
- **A Dream Come True**
Andrea M. Hutchinson
- **The Fisherman and his Soul**
Oscar Wilde
- **Hamlet**
William Shakespeare
- **The Jumping Frog**
Mark Twain
- **Kidnapped**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **The Lost World**
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Magical Tales from the South Seas**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Murder at Coyote Canyon**
Gina D. B. Clemen
- **The Mutiny on the Bounty**
- **The Rajah's Diamond**
Robert Louis Stevenson
- **The Ransom of Red Chief and Other Stories**
O. Henry
- **The Secret Garden**
Frances Hodgson Burnett
- **Stories of Ghosts and Mysteries**
J. S. Le Fanu, R. Kipling, N. Hawthorne

Key to Exit Test
 1 1A 2C 3C 4B 5D 6A 7A
 8D 9A 10C 11B 12D 13B
 2 Student's Activity