

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

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



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

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

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

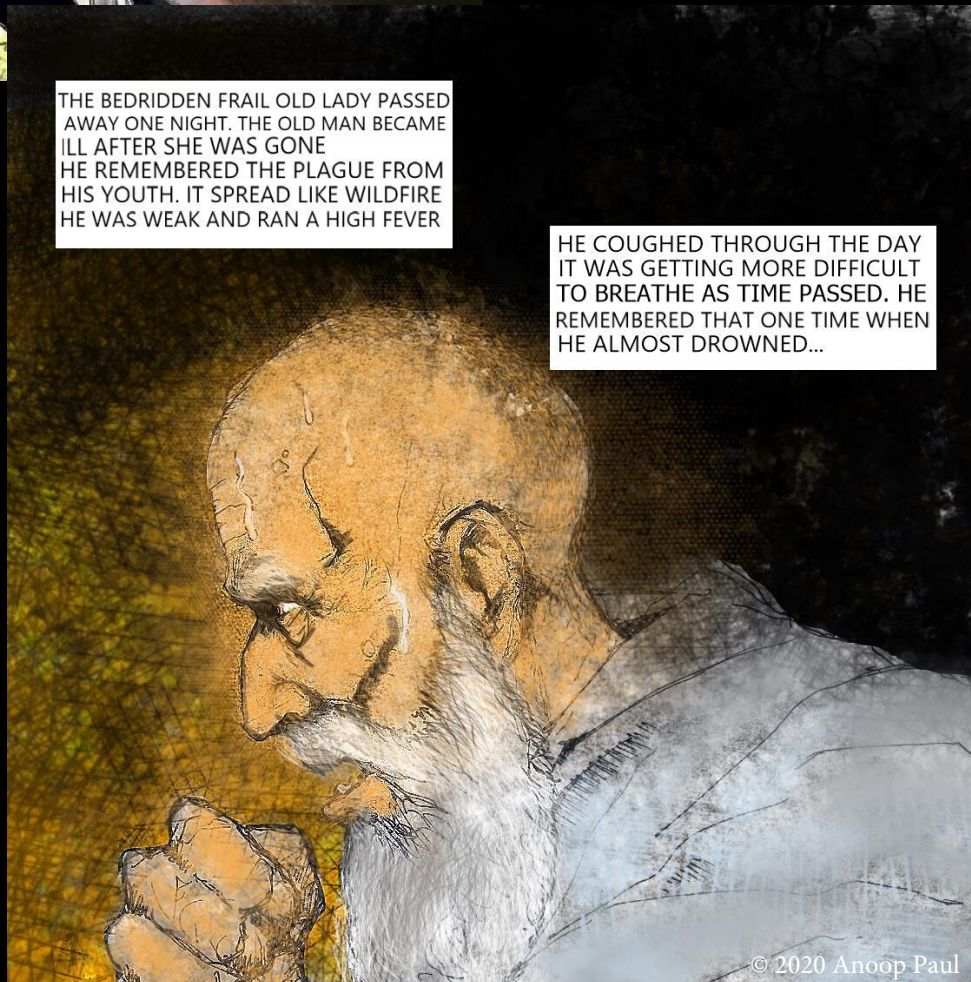
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THE TALE OF THE CORONA BEAST



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

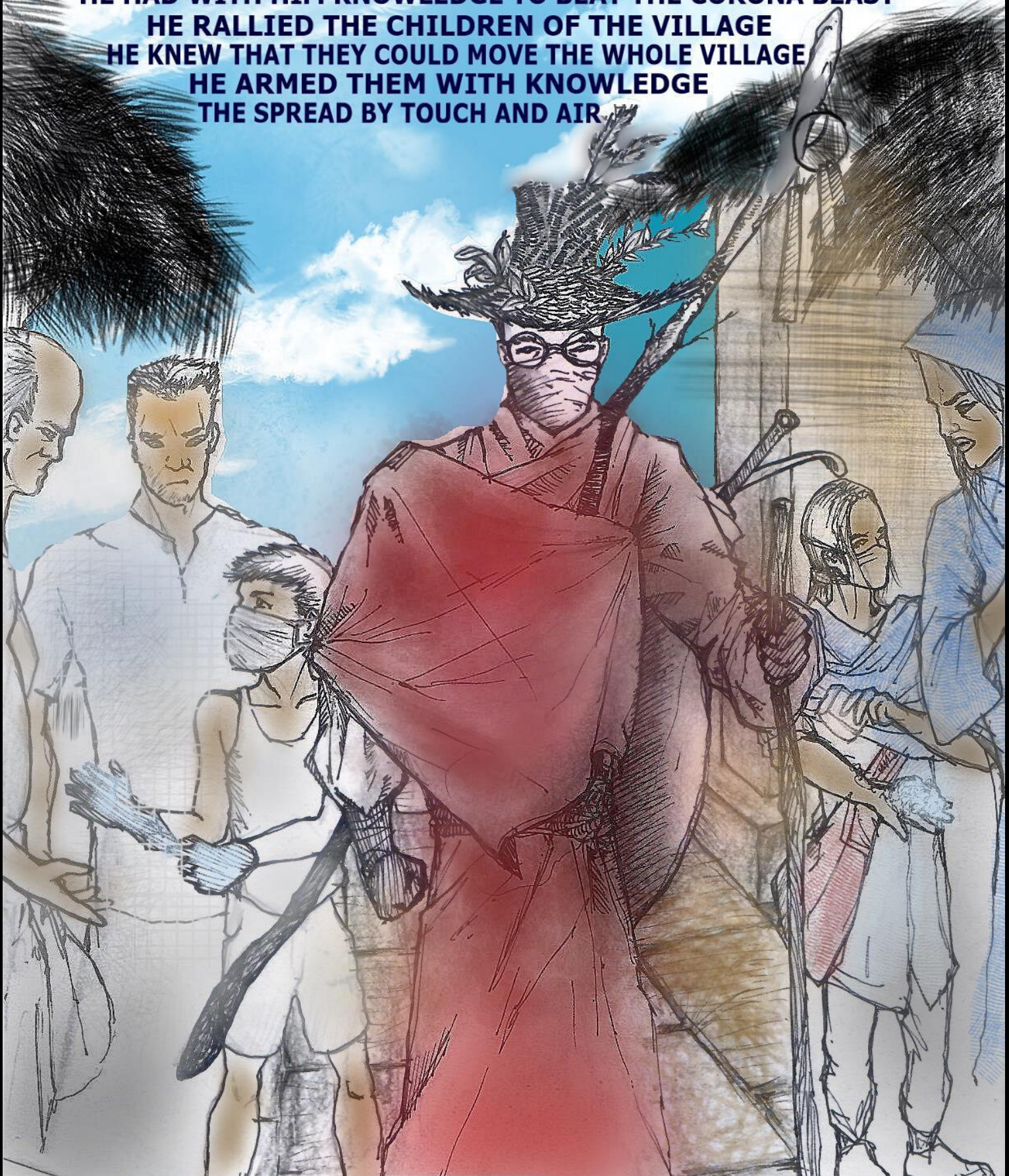
HE COUGHED THROUGH THE DAY IT WAS GETTING MORE DIFFICULT TO BREATHE AS TIME PASSED. HE REMEMBERED THAT ONE TIME WHEN HE ALMOST DROWNED...



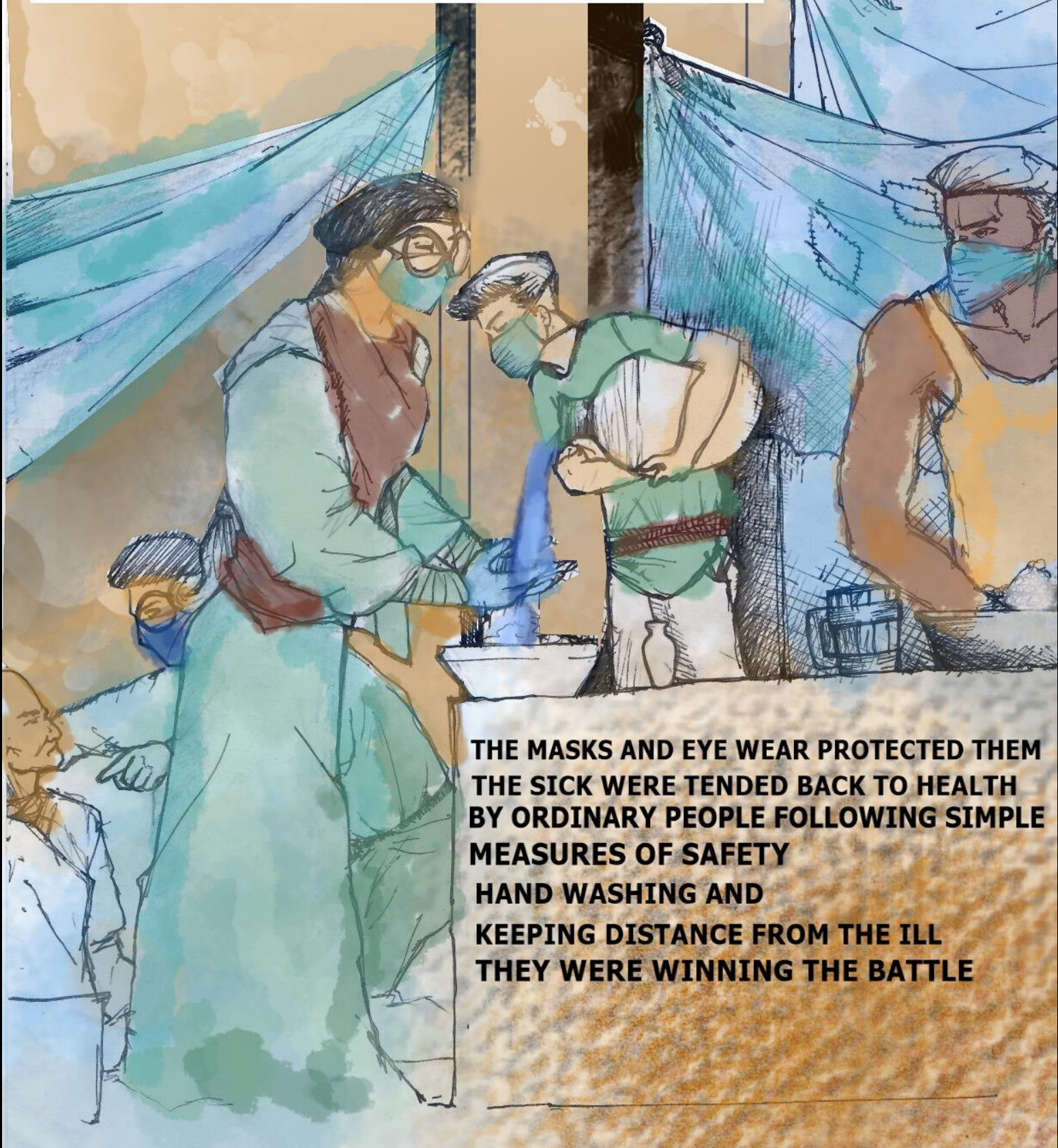
**THERE WAS A BOY WHO BROUGHT FOOD FOR THE OLD MAN
HE WAS WITH THE OLD MAN WHEN THE FEVER RAN
HE WAS THE NEXT TO FALL ILL. HE COUGHED THROUGH THE DAY
THE BOY LIVED IN A HUT AT THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE
THE SMALL HUT WAS HOME TO A FAMILY OF SEVEN
THE BOY'S GRANDMOTHER WAS NEXT. ONE DAY AS SHE COOKED
SHE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



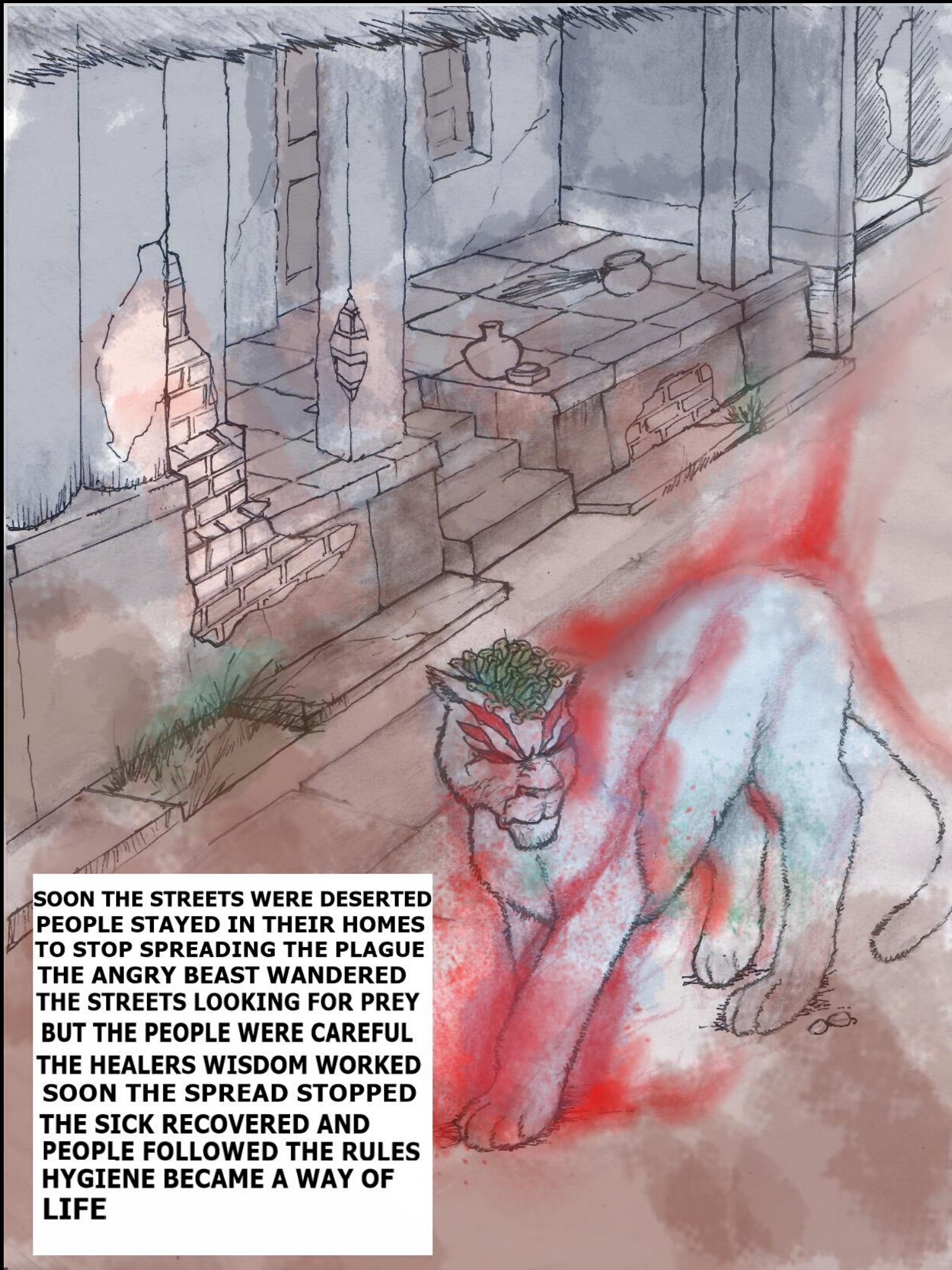
**WORD ABOUT THE NEW PLAGUE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE
THIS BROUGHT A WISE MAN WHO WAS A HEALER
HE WAS A MONK FROM THE NORTH WHO TRAVELLED ALONE
HE LOST EVERYTHING PRECIOUS TO HIM TO THE PLAGUE BUT NOW
HE HAD WITH HIM KNOWLEDGE TO BEAT THE CORONA BEAST
HE RALLIED THE CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE
HE KNEW THAT THEY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



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

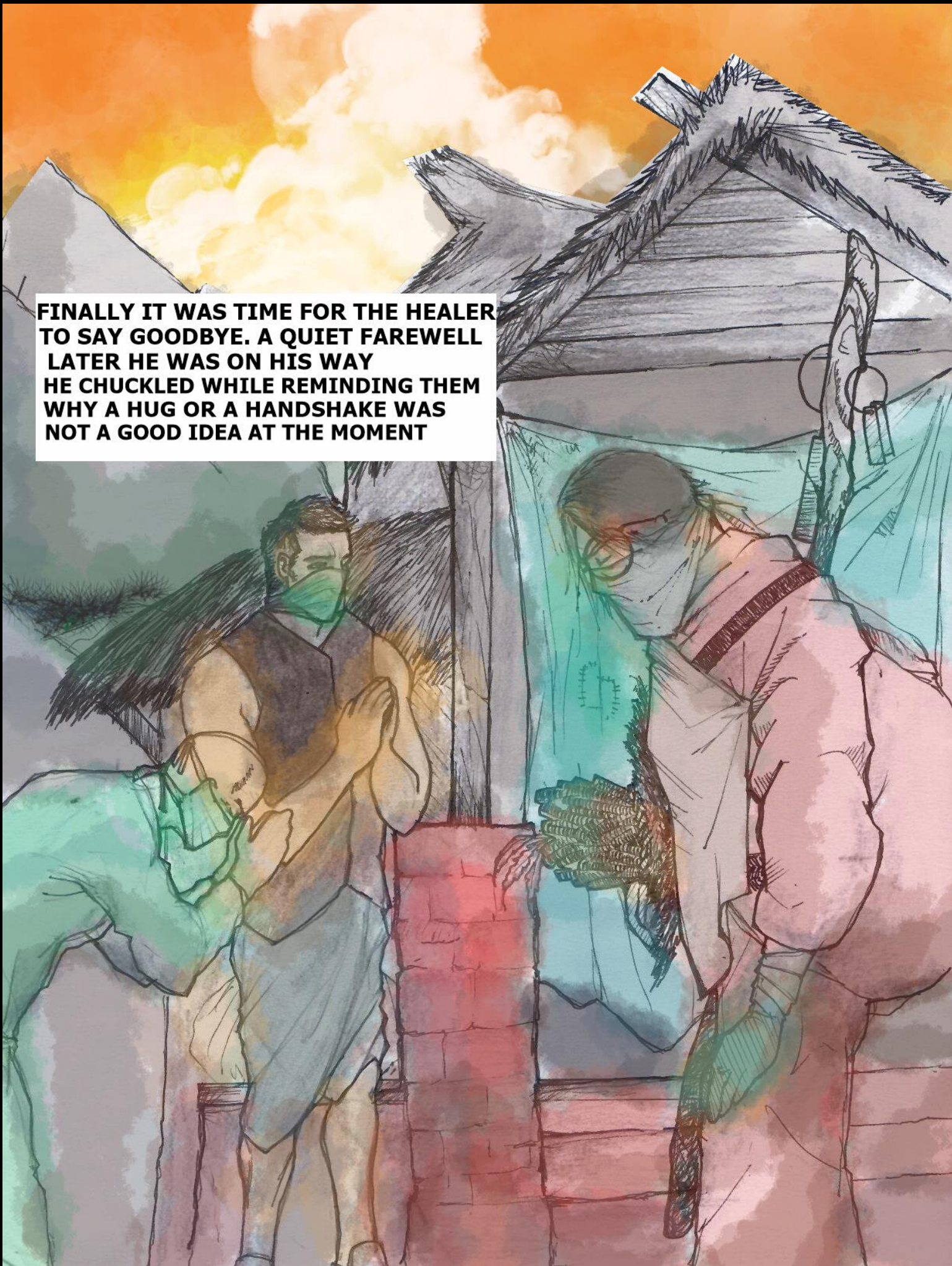


THE MASKS AND EYE WEAR PROTECTED THEM THE SICK WERE TENDED BACK TO HEALTH BY ORDINARY PEOPLE FOLLOWING SIMPLE MEASURES OF SAFETY HAND WASHING AND KEEPING DISTANCE FROM THE ILL THEY WERE WINNING THE BATTLE



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

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



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



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