



Jeju



the Stone Boy



On the island of Jeju, just south of Korea's coast, a legend tells the story of dragons trying to steal the Plant of Eternity from the God of the Mountains. They became the victims of the angry god and, struck by his arrows, turned to statues of stone staring at the sea.



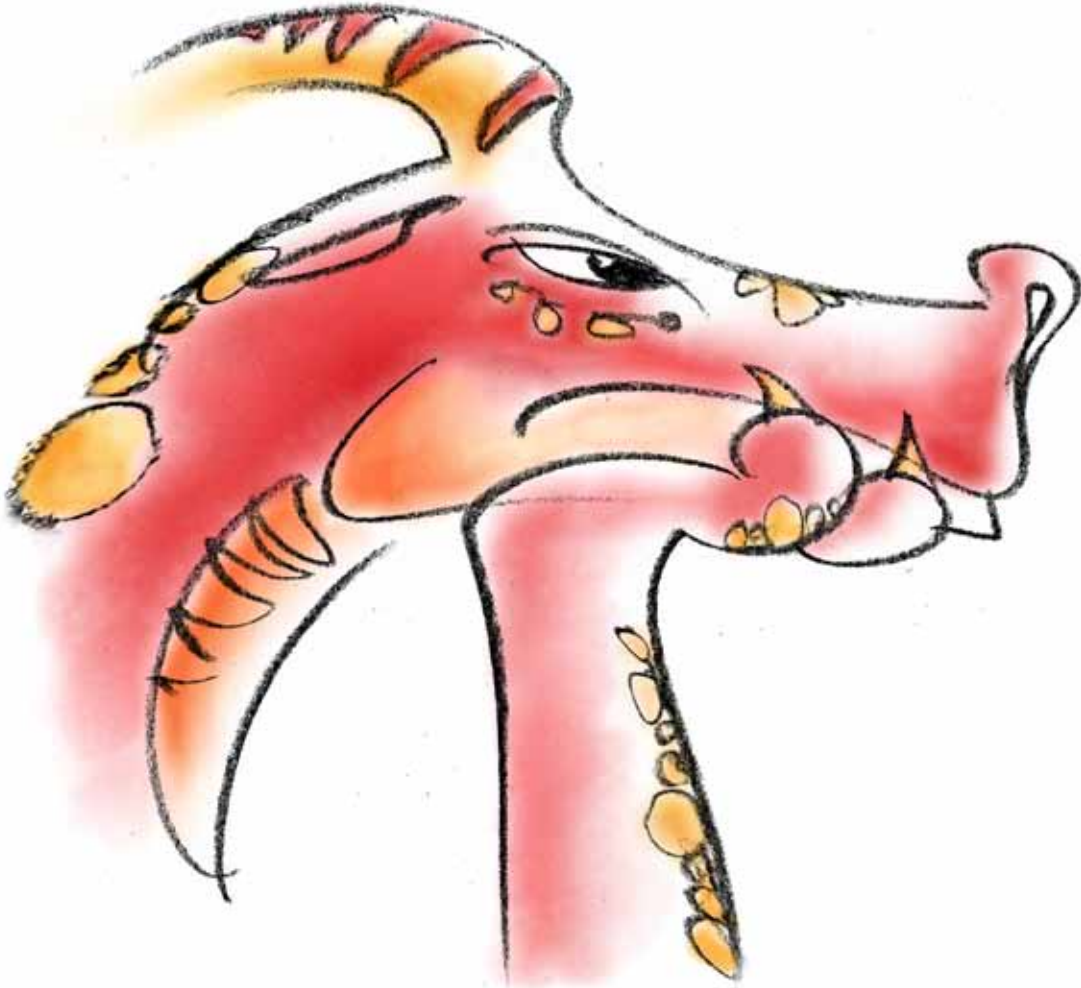
Once upon a time, dragons ruled the island of Jeju.



At one point in their history, the dragons enjoyed a very long peace under a good and generous king and his gracious queen.



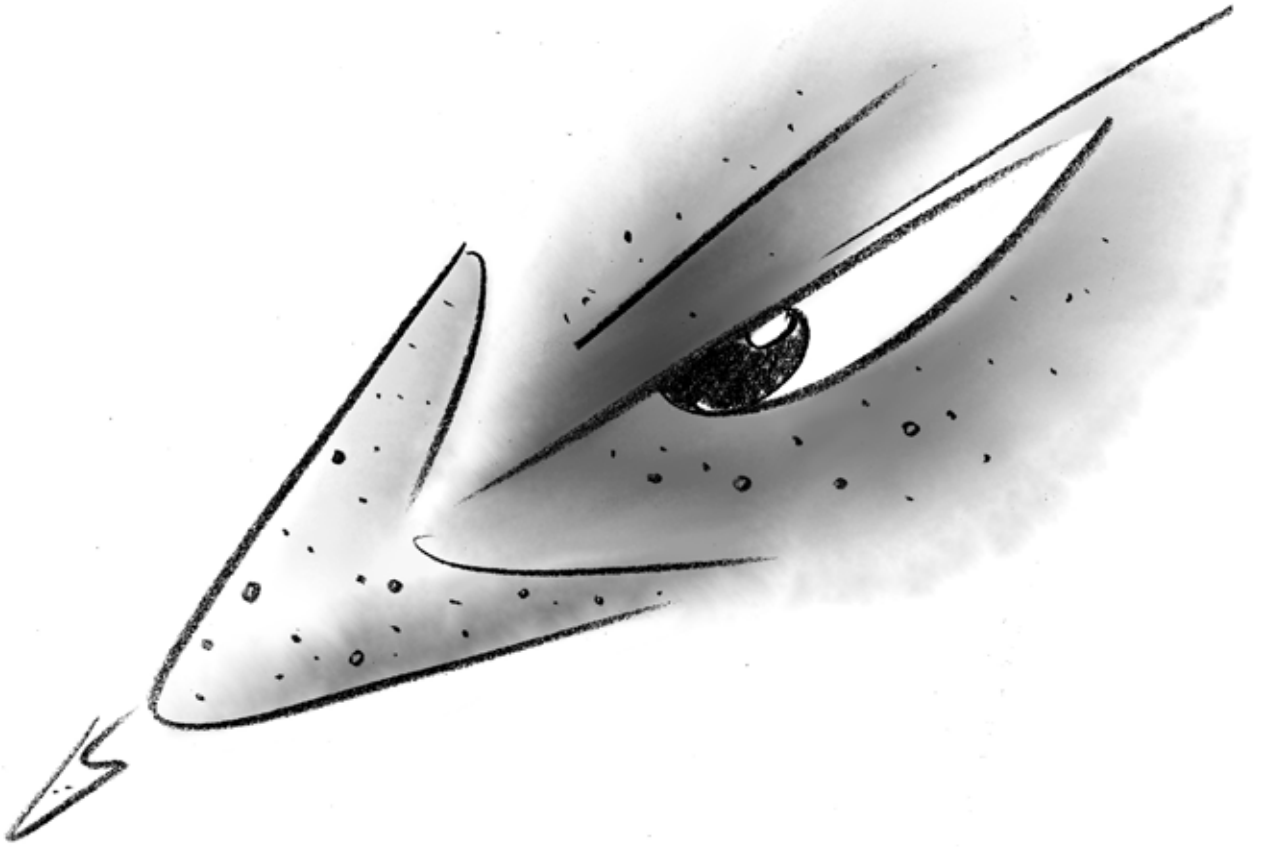
While Lady Dragon is all about caring and protecting the future heir to the throne ...



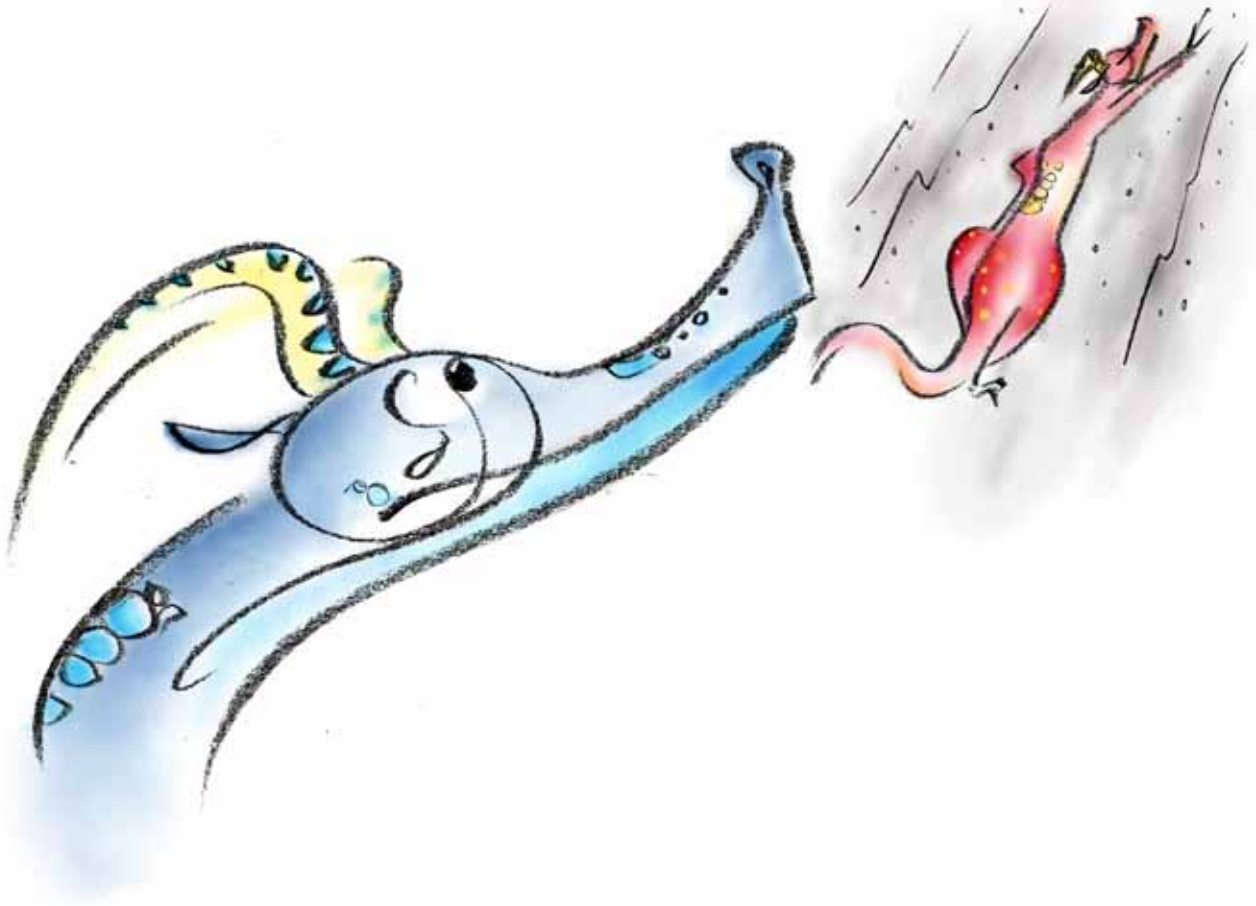
... **King Dragon** is all about protecting the peace he fought hard to gain. The future of peace is what matters to him.



It is said that a Plant of Eternity grows deep in the mountains. Whoever eats it, will live forever.



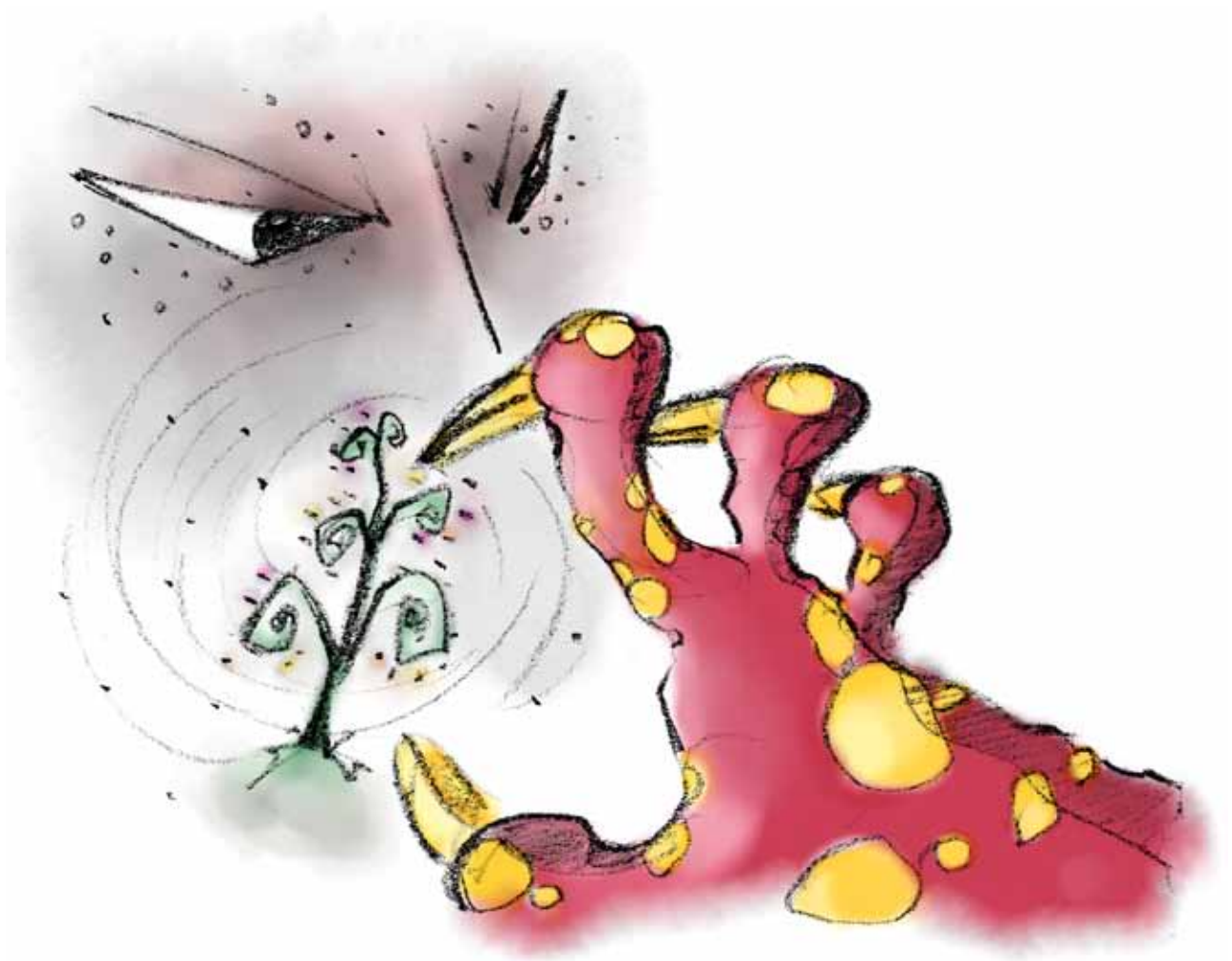
But the plant is protected by Halla, the God of the Mountains. "Dare to steal it and be turned to stone:" warns the legend.



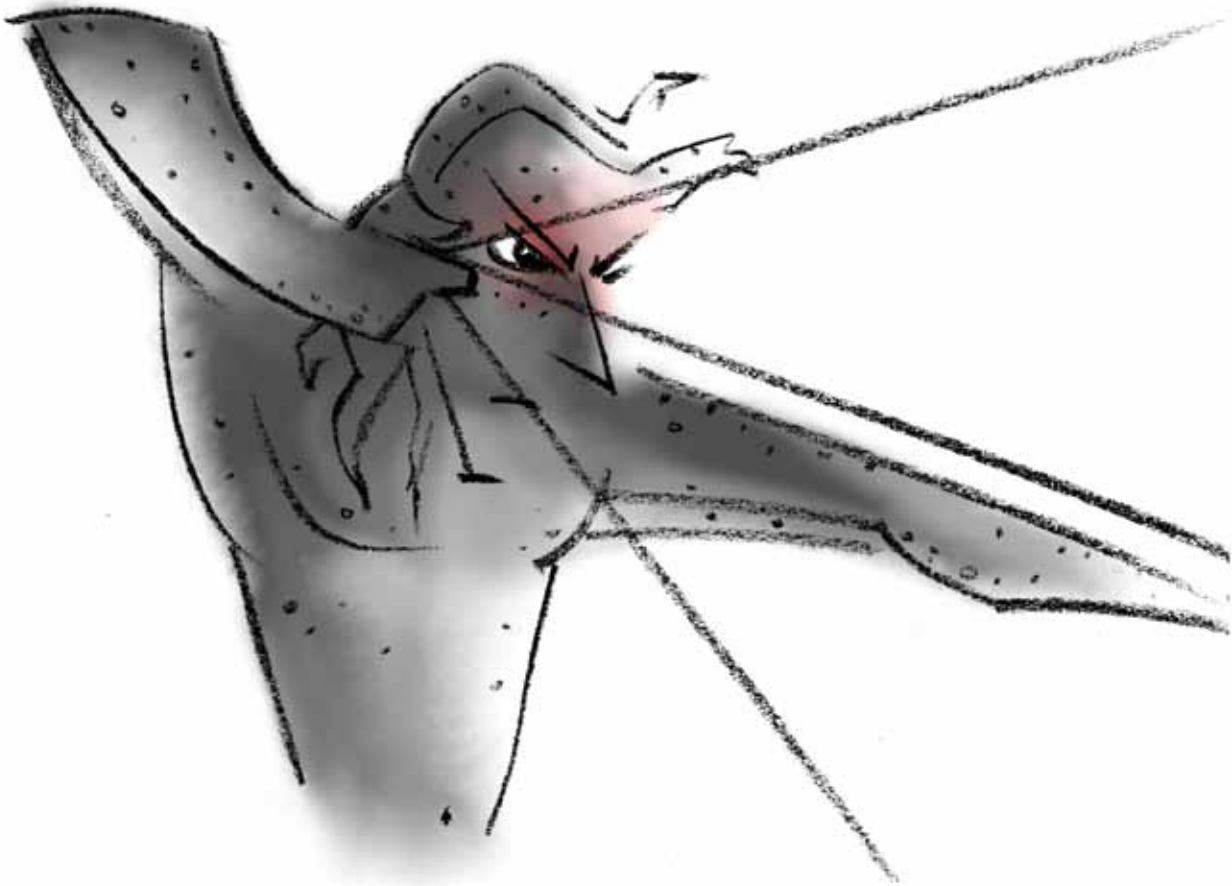
However, the king desires eternal peace, and one day, his decision is made, and not even the queen can stop him to seek the plant.



After a hard day of climbing,
the Plant of Eternity is within reach.



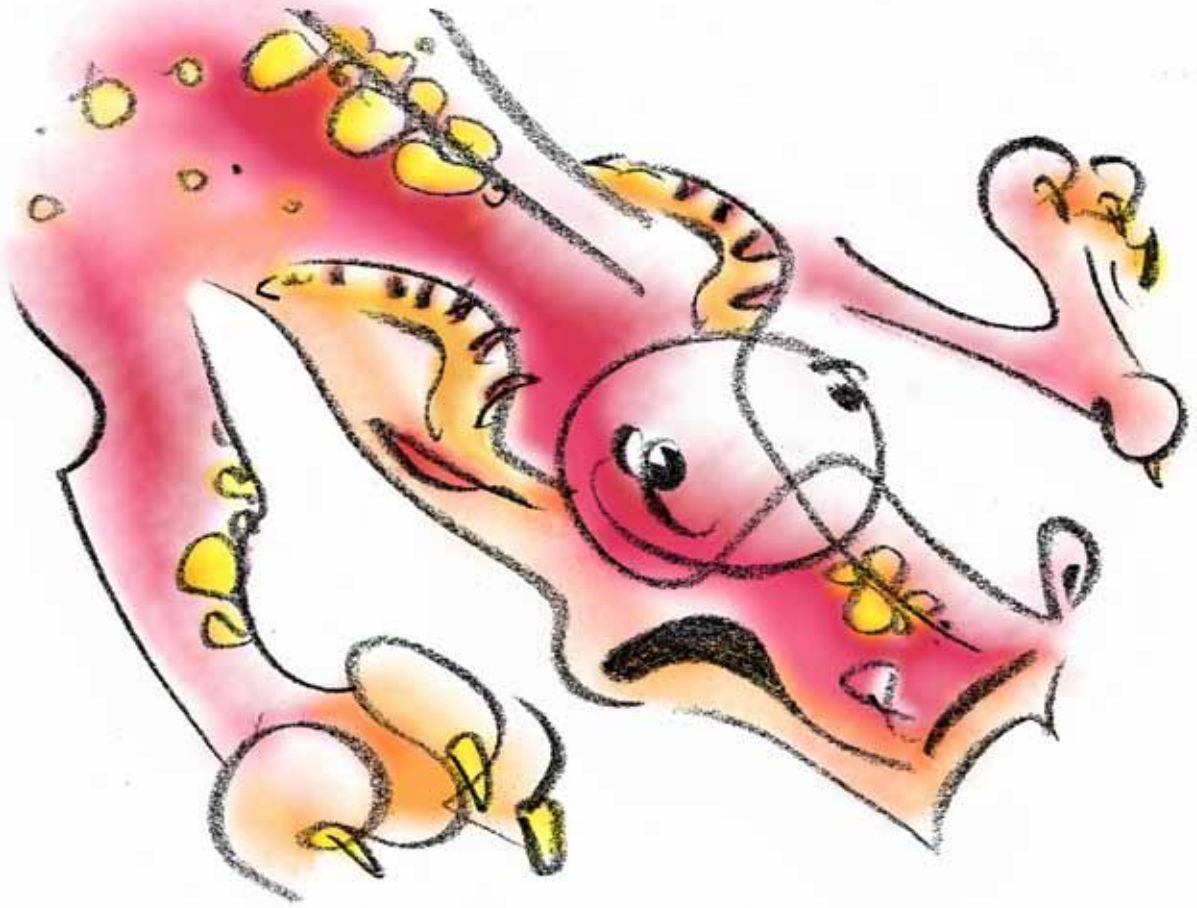
Just as the king is about to pluck the plant,
two angry eyes appear on the volcanic rock!...



The God of the Mountains morphs from the rocks!... Slowly he takes his bow,... an arrow,... and calmly takes aim...



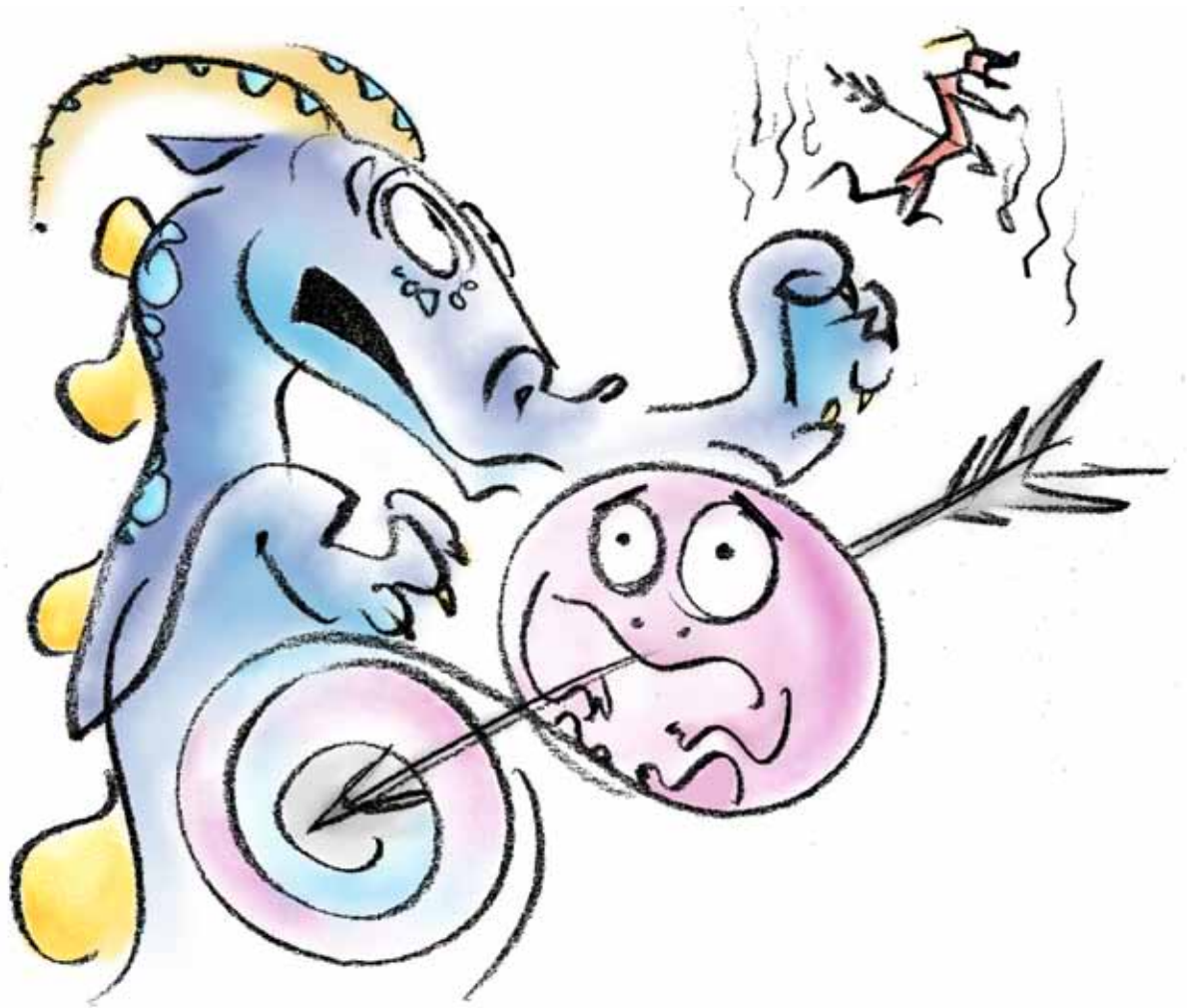
Dominating his victim, Halla has all the time to adjust **D**estiny.



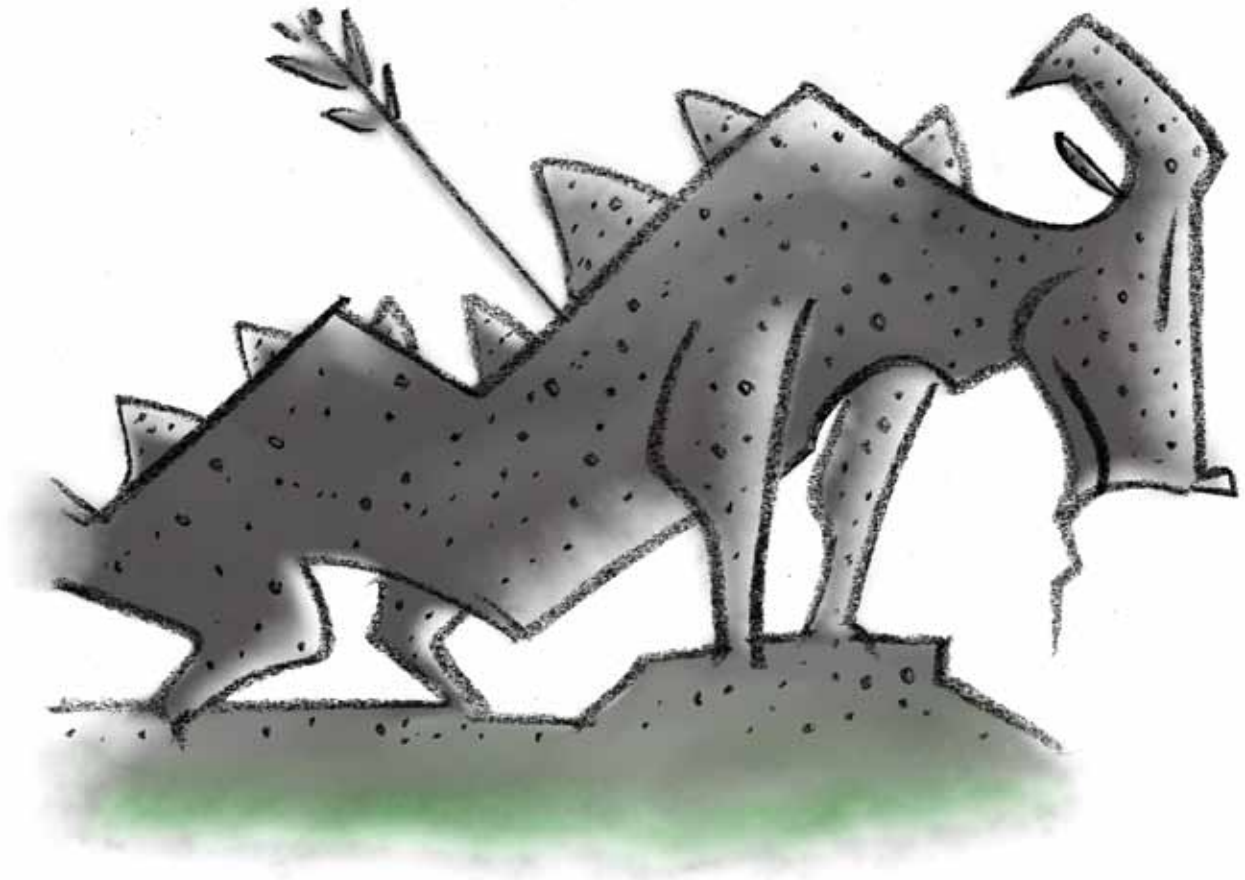
Running desperately for his life,
the king feels the god's will upon him...



And Halla's arrow strikes him.



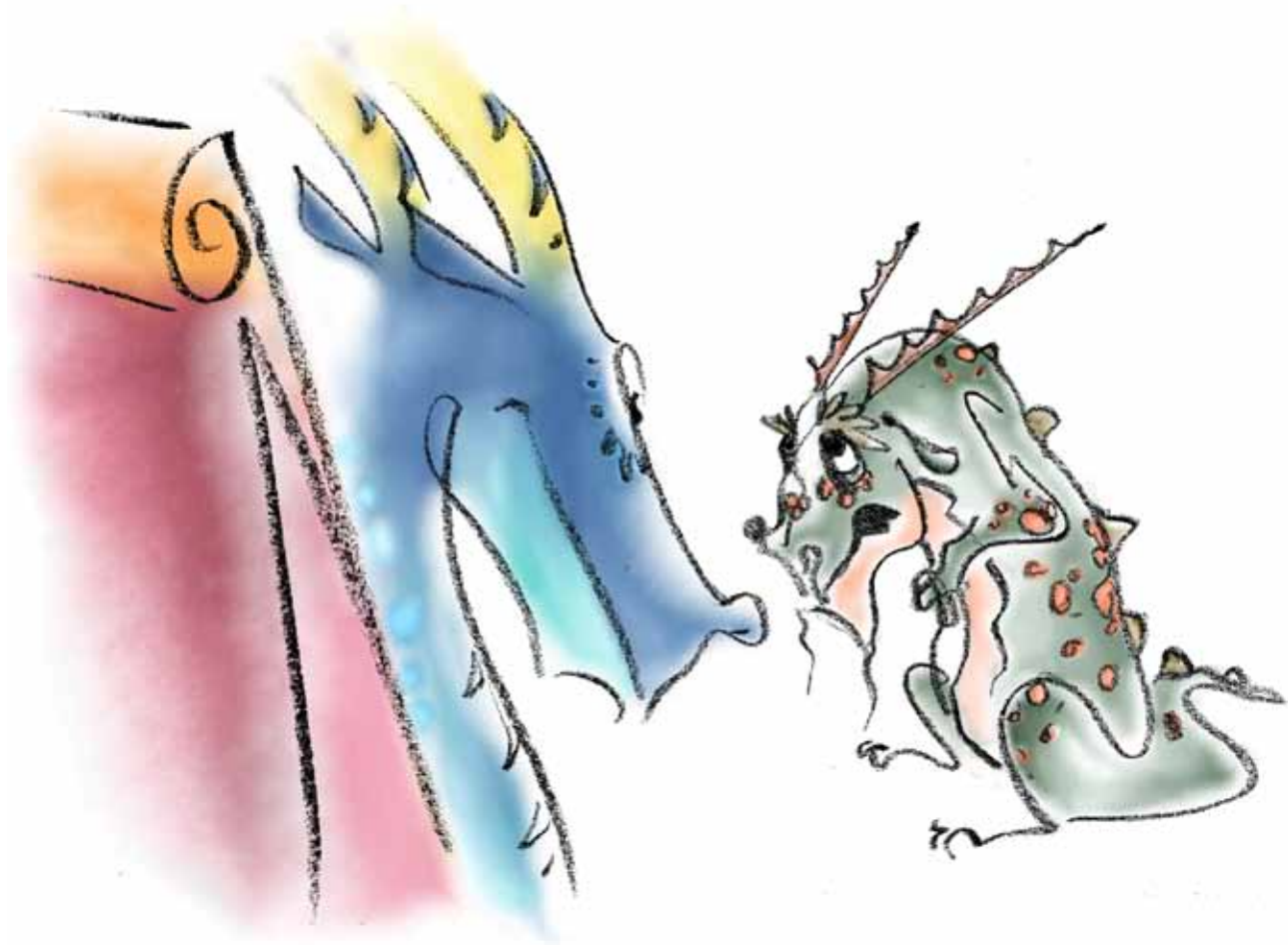
Deep inside, Lady Dragon feels
the fate met by her king...



And he now stands still, cursed by Halla,
frozen in stone, a sad statue of stone.



Lady Dragon weeps heavy tears. Her subjects gather around her, mourning their king and supporting their queen.



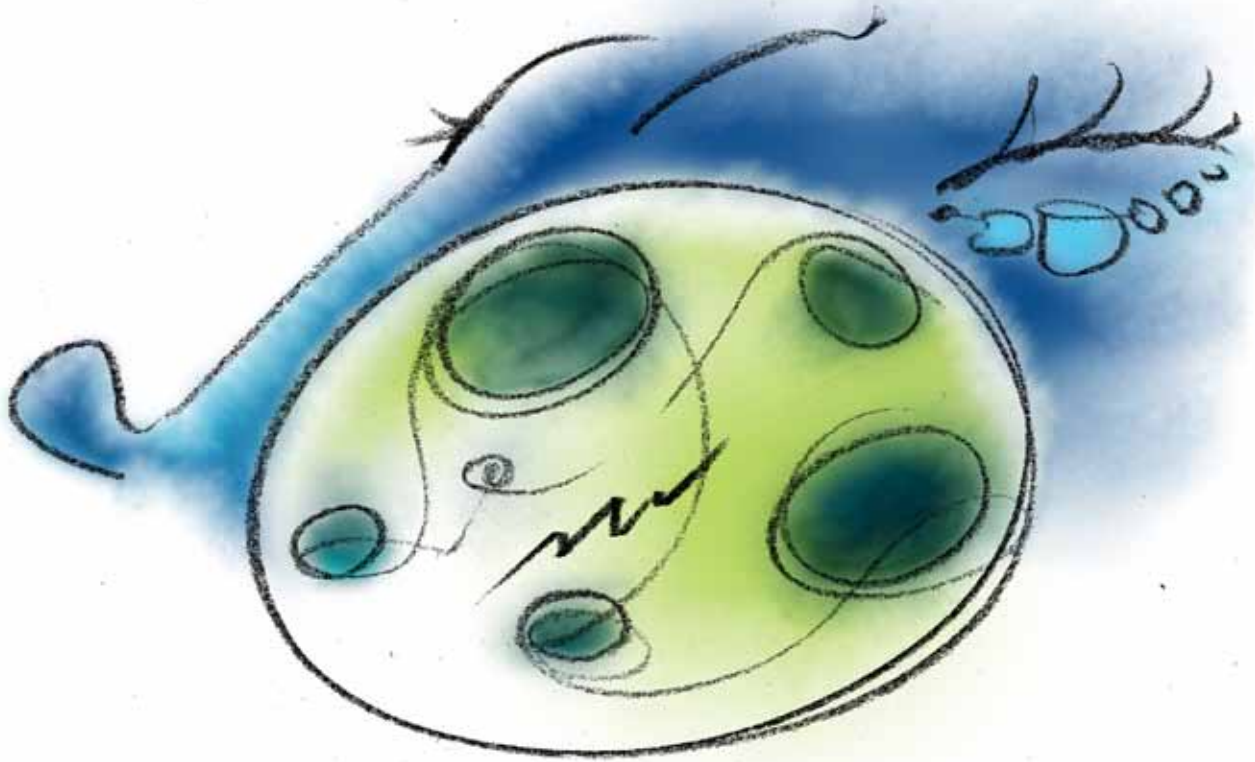
Elder Dragon recalls the legend: "The curse of the God of the Mountains can only be lifted by the victim's first son."



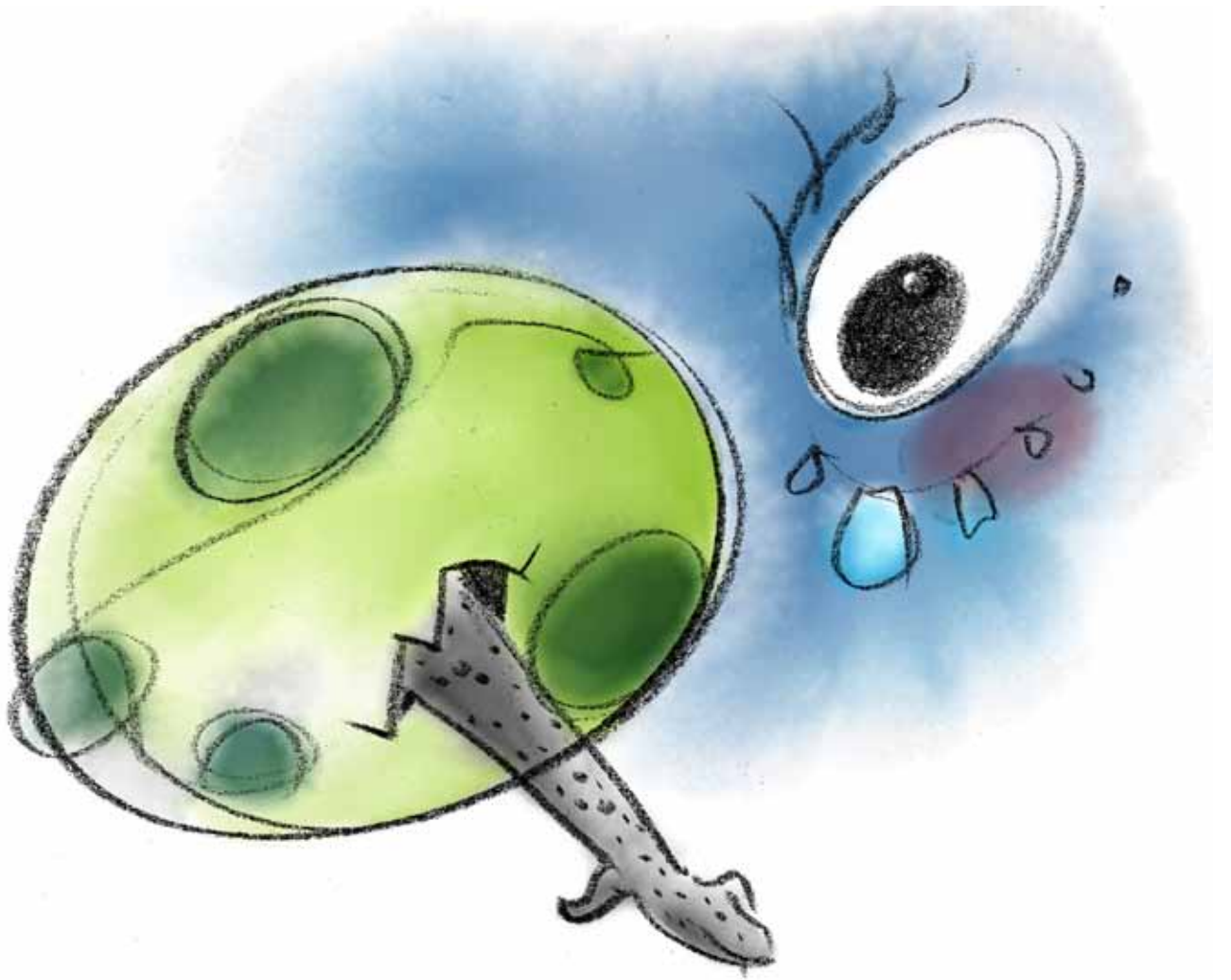
And adds: "By taking the Plant of Eternity and feeding it to his father."



Now Lady Dragon knows her son's destiny:
he and only he will have the duty and the honor
of breathing life back into his late king father.



Weeks later... the royal egg hatches!



And... well... a being of volcanic stone emerges!



Dragons from all over the island and beyond witness the wisp of white smoke above the Great Volcano, the sign of the new royal birth!



The celebrations are joyous and lasting:
"Long live the king! Long live the king!"



Soon, the new King Dragon is presented to the masses...



“What is th... that... thing???”
can be read on all faces.



No matter what he looks like, for Lady Dragon he is the son of her beloved husband, he is the king and a “wonderfully cute boy”.



**"We shall call you "Jeju the Stone Boy"
by the will and the curse of your father."**



But soon opposition grows against a “King Dragon that just does not look like one. “He isn’t one of us! “Where are the horns?... the scales?... the strength?”



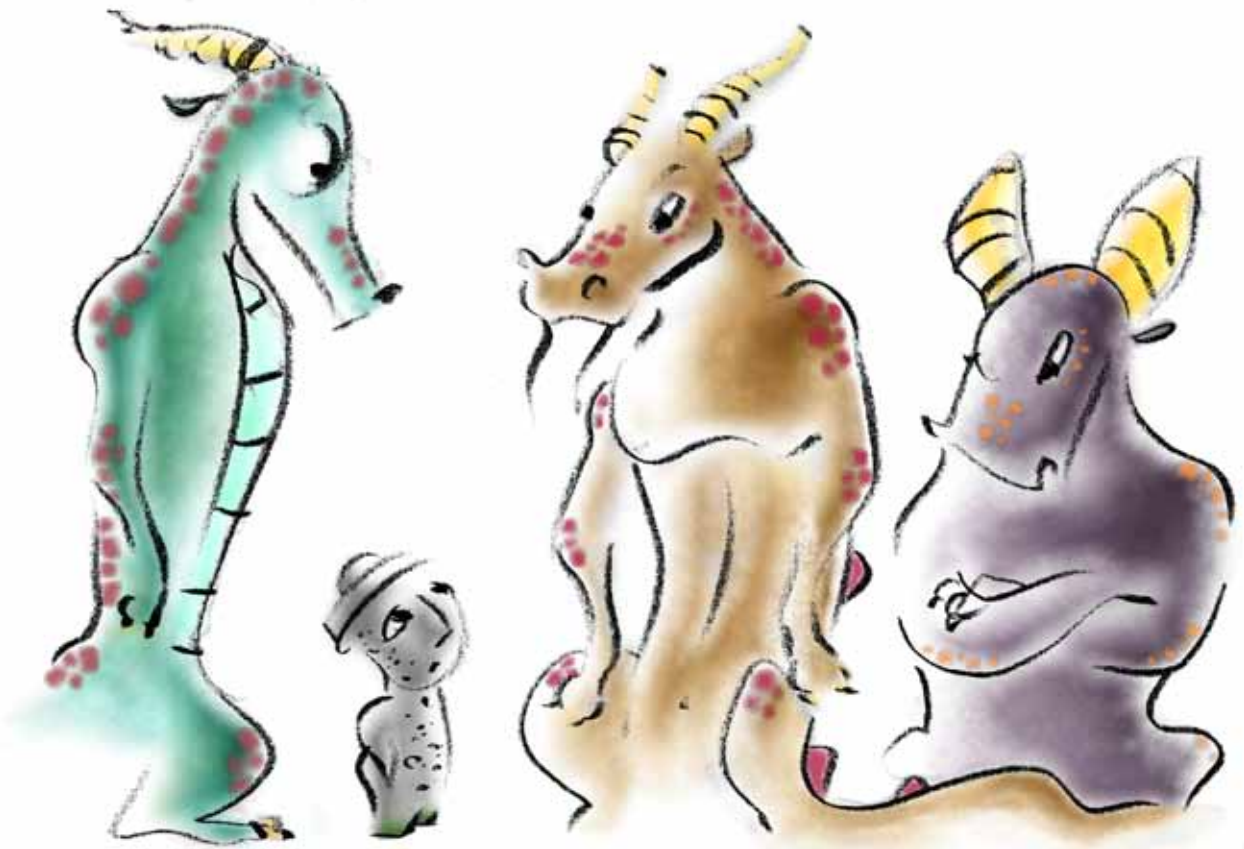
Baron Dragon leads the opposition and challenges Jeju to a duel!



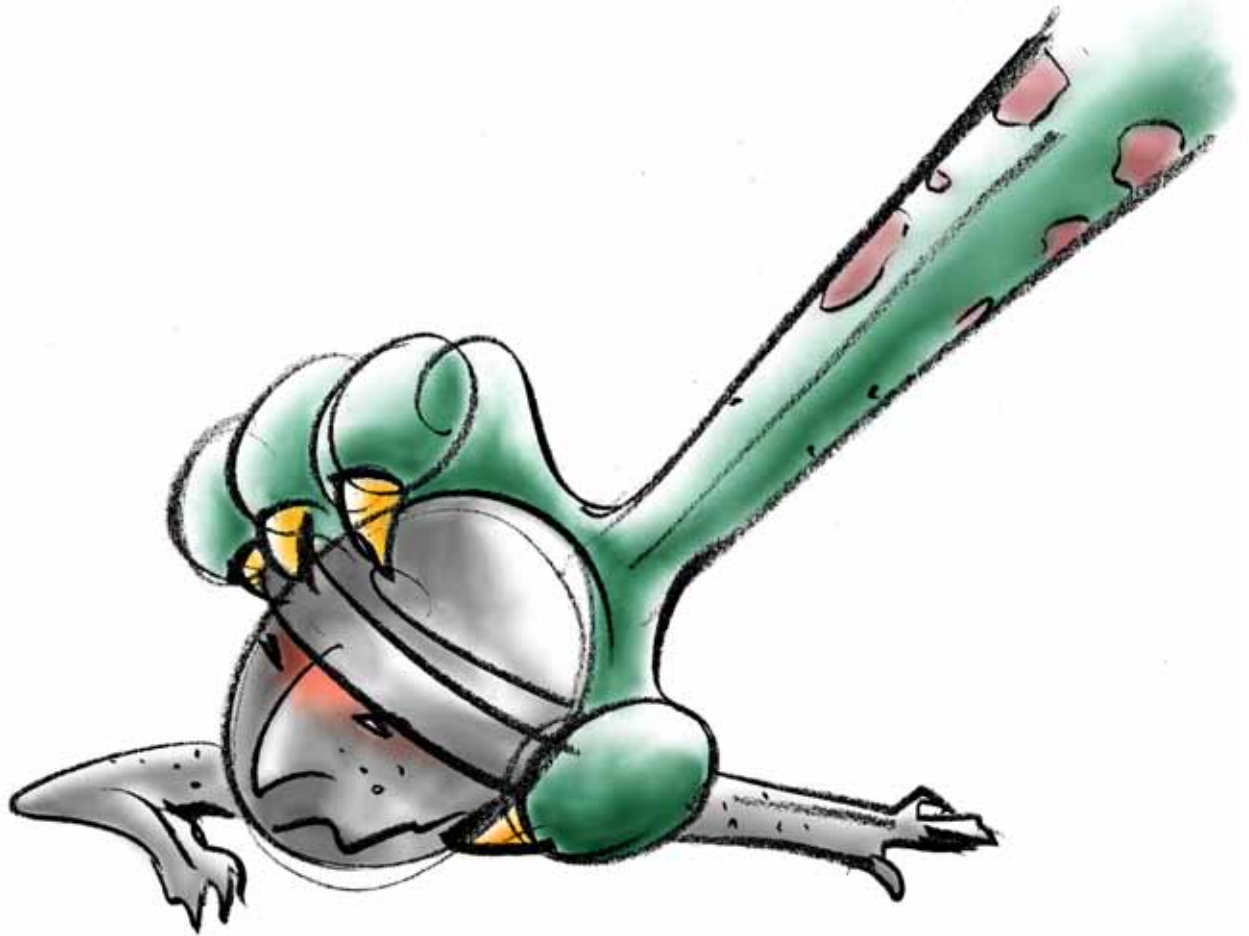
The queen tries to persuade her son against the duel. "You are king by birth; you have nothing to prove."



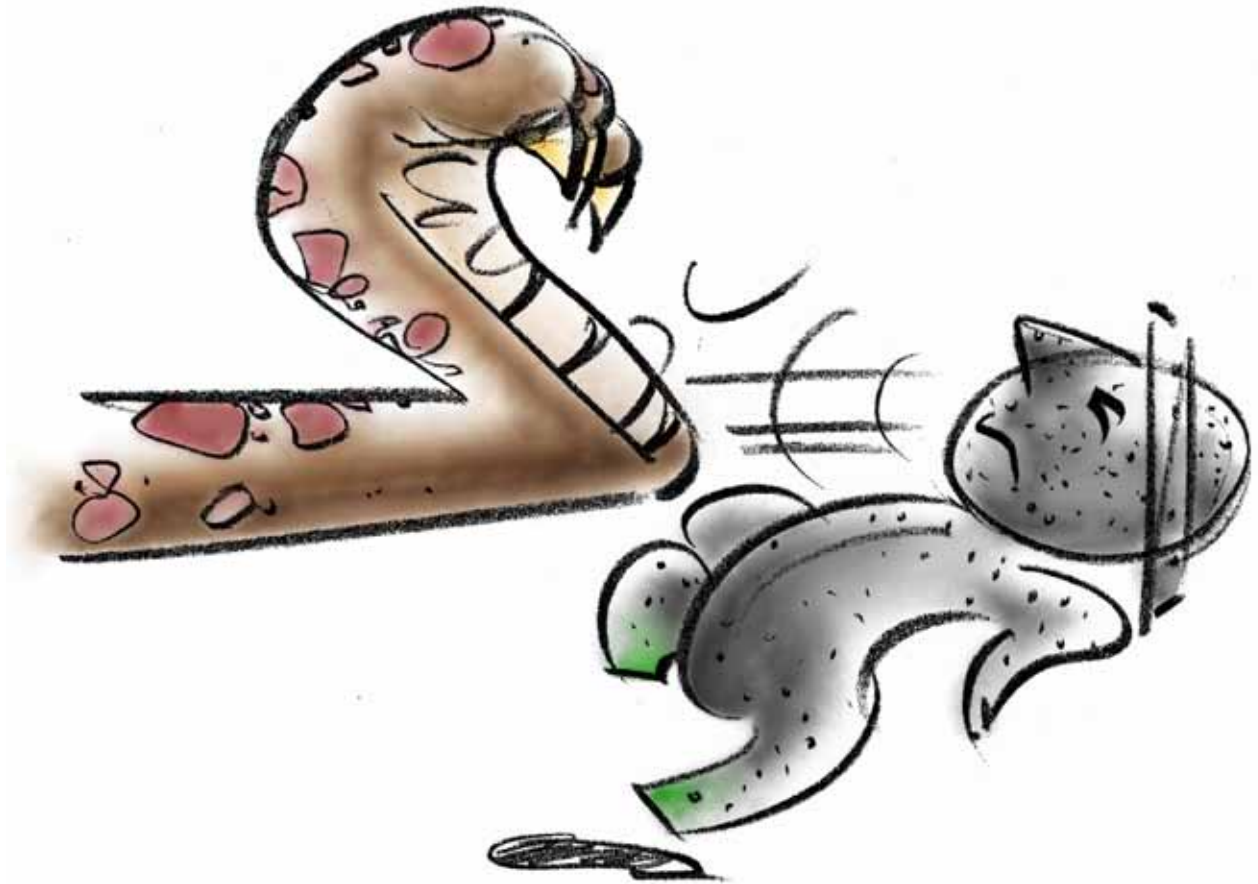
But there is a royal pride in little Jeju.
The Stone Boy accepts the duel and sets
a date for it.



The training of the young king begins under the tutelage of masters of swords and fists. But they are anxious, and so is Jeju...



To observers, the training resembles punishment...



...or playing with a toy...



...or just sitting on His Majesty!



After such humiliations, Jeju does not quite feel like a king anymore...



“Hey Jeju, let’s forget about the duel and enjoy the beauty of your island, our home!” suggest his friends Bo and Bay.



Surfing! That's new. "I love it!..." shouts Jeju.



Run... run... run through the fields of flowers...



Who wants to jump and swim under the waterfalls?



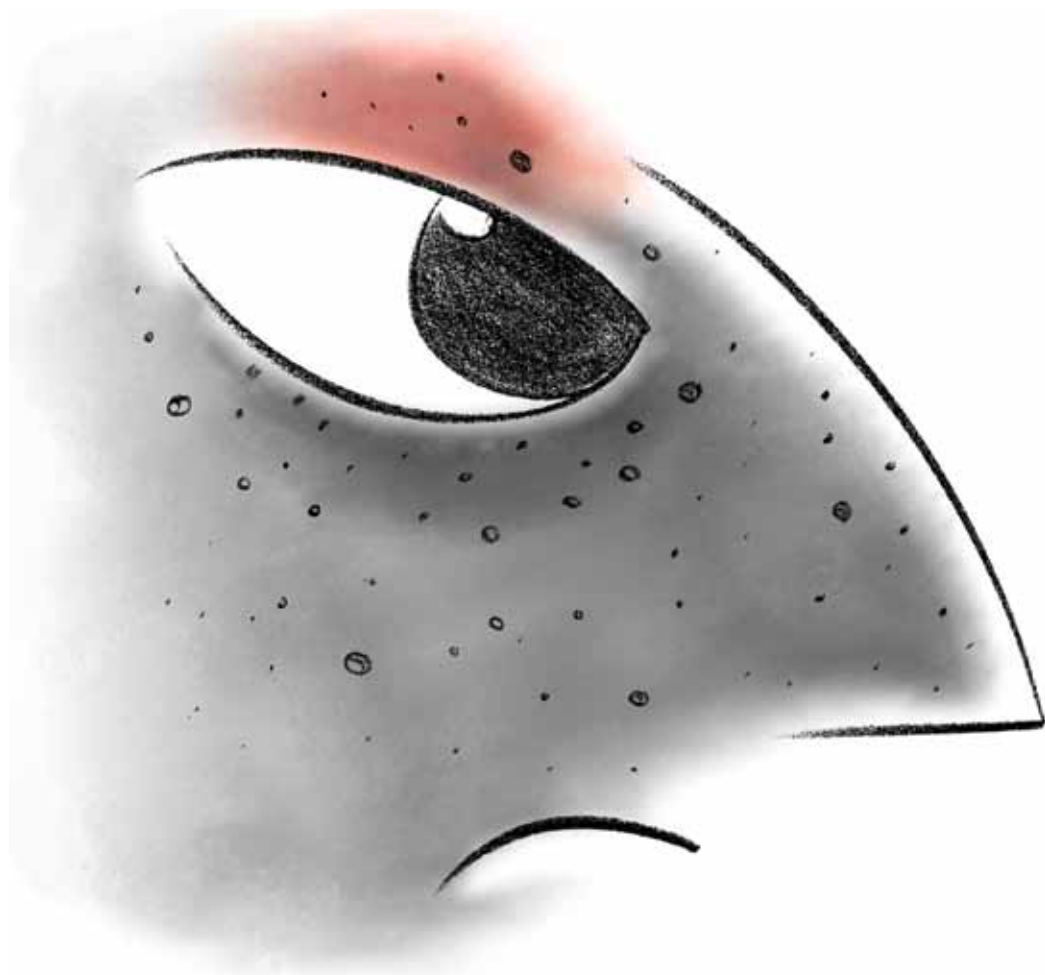
After the exercise and fun comes relaxation...
and "fooooood!"



The peaceful sight of the orange sun sinking into the sea ends a day of fun and excitement.



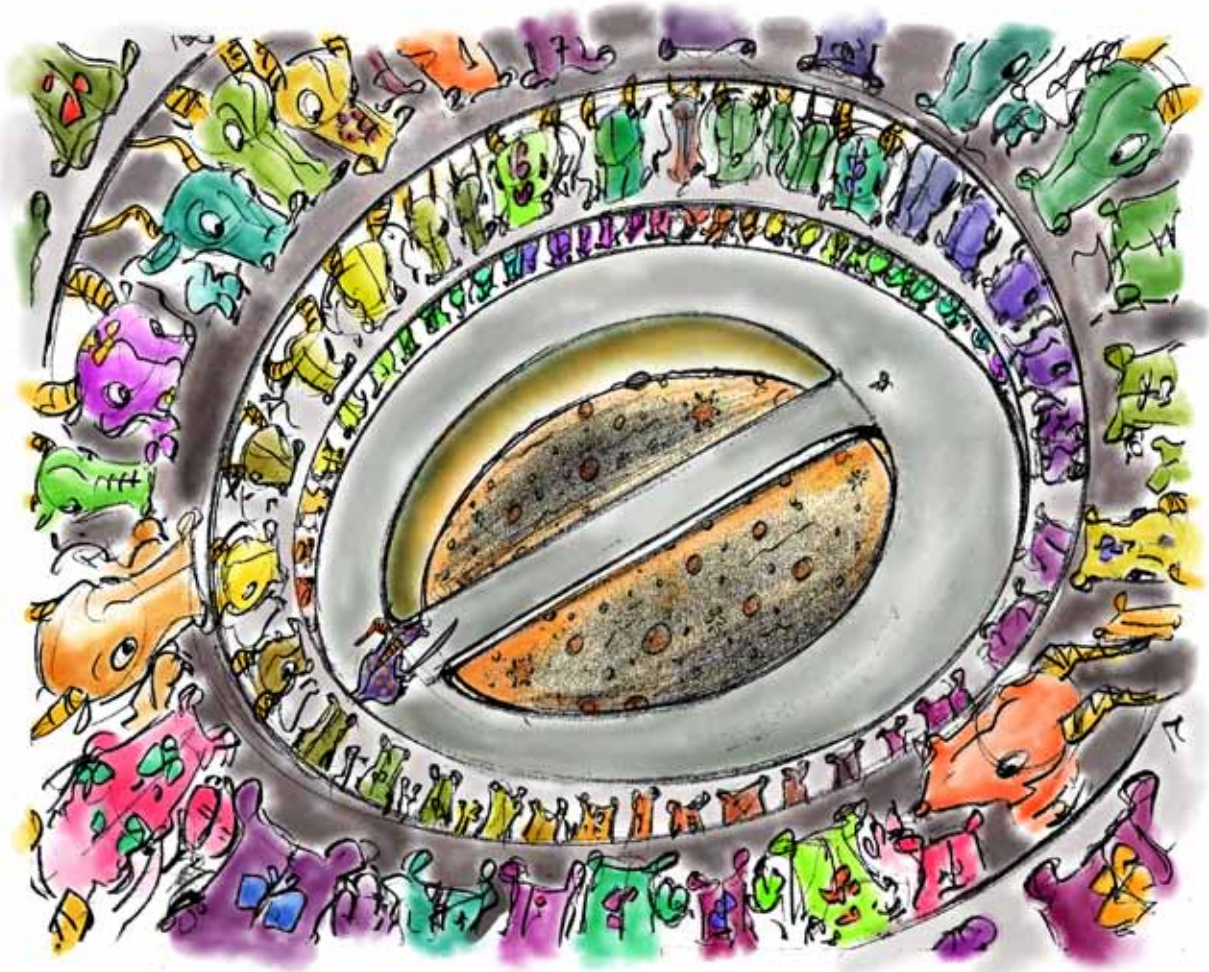
Jeju the island has rejuvenated Jeju the king.
Bo and Bay marvel at the changes in their
young royal friend.



Jeju feels his destiny surge through his veins. He knows that winning tomorrow's duel is the first step towards returning his father to life.



The next morning, the trumpets call all dragons to the arena. The day of the duel has come!



A large volcanic crater is rimmed with grandstands. Dragons from every province have gathered to witness the combat.



From each end of an arching bridge, Jeju and the baron face each other with swords drawn.



*Jeju moves in first, fearlessly defying
the bulk of the baron...*



But his blows are parried by a finger...
or a nail!



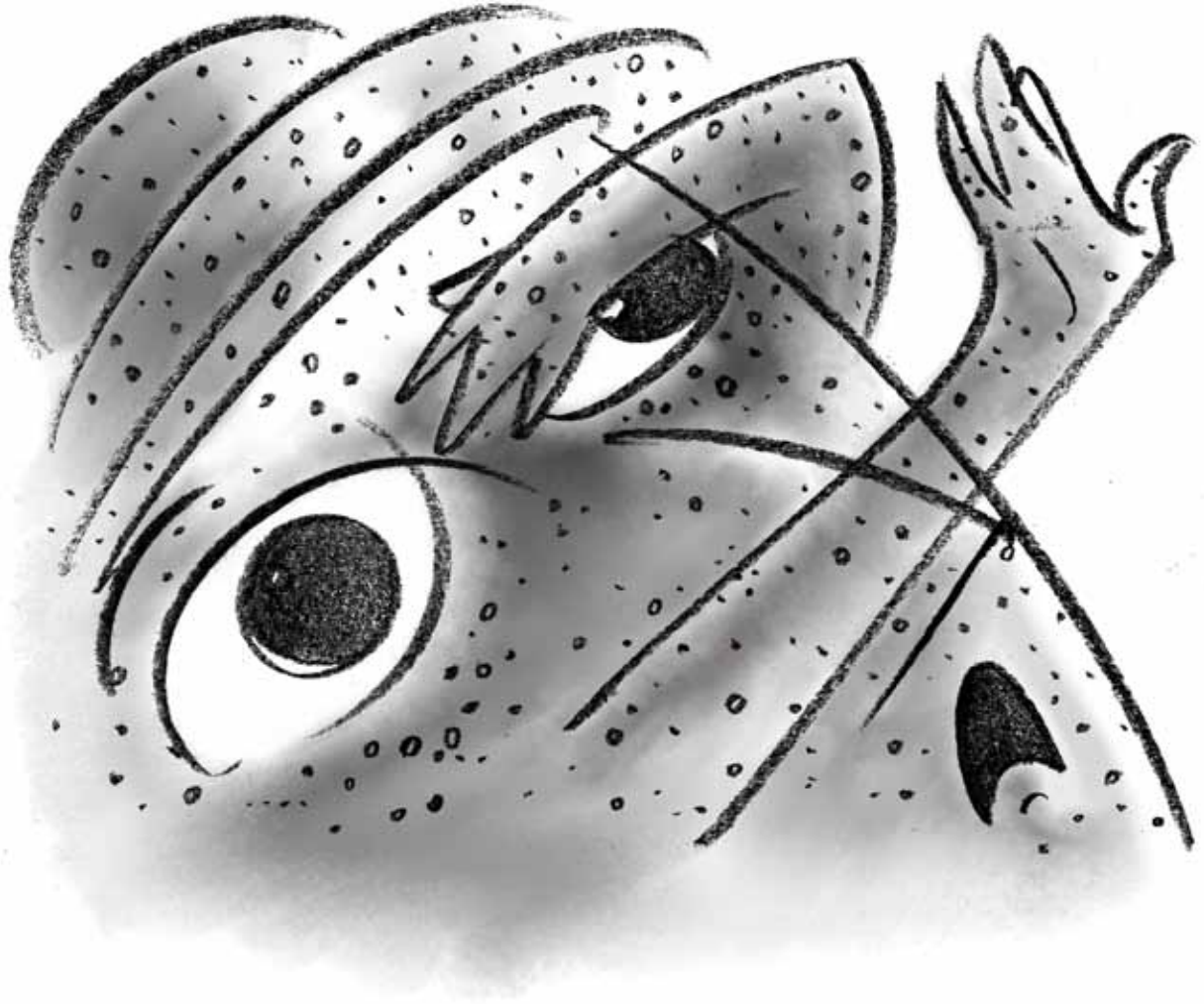
“Fight!!! Fight like a dragon should!...”



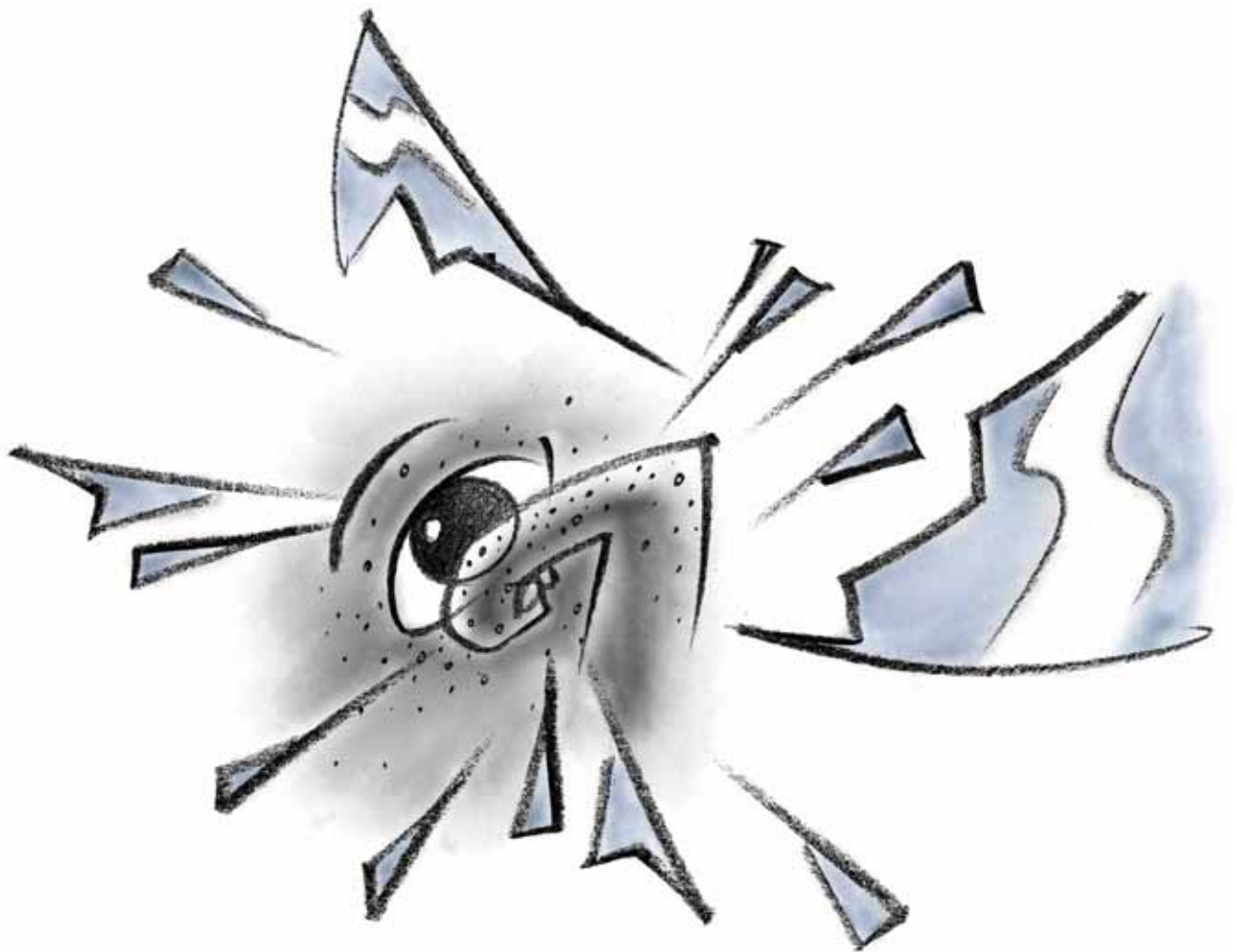
**"Yeah, you little boy of stone?!... All right then,
feel my scorn,... feel my blade!"**



With a flick of the wrist, Baron Dragon swiftly disarms Jeju and lifts his sword to finish him off.



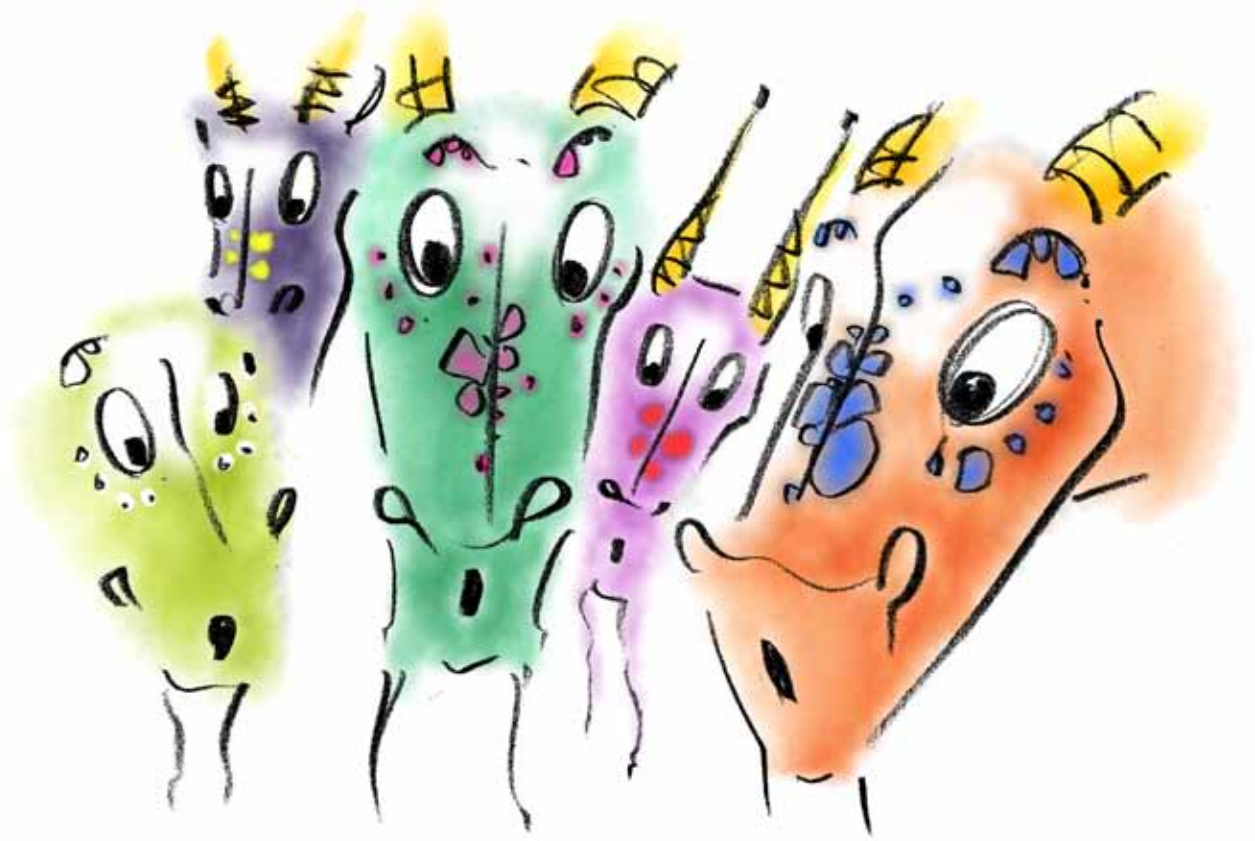
Jeju realizes that his end has come...



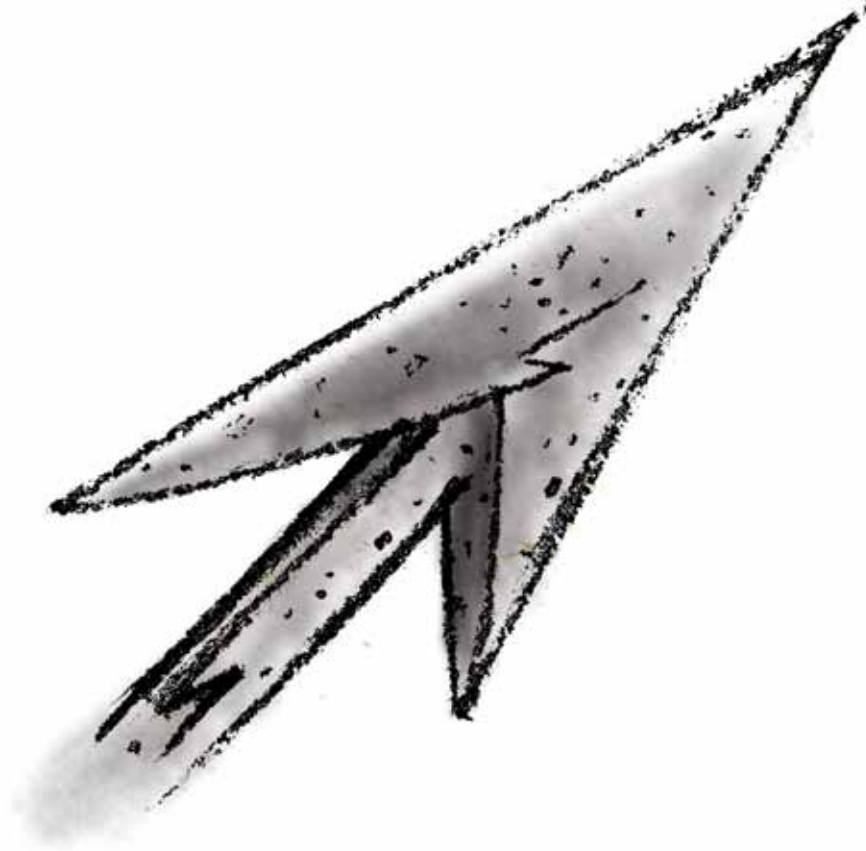
...and... the sword breaks on his arm!!!



Now Baron Dragon knows that the boy
is not just the son of the late King Dragon...



The crowd's silence turns into an excited hum:
"He is the son of the God of the Mountains too!!!
He is unbreakable!"



“Only a weapon made by Halla himself
could hurt him...”



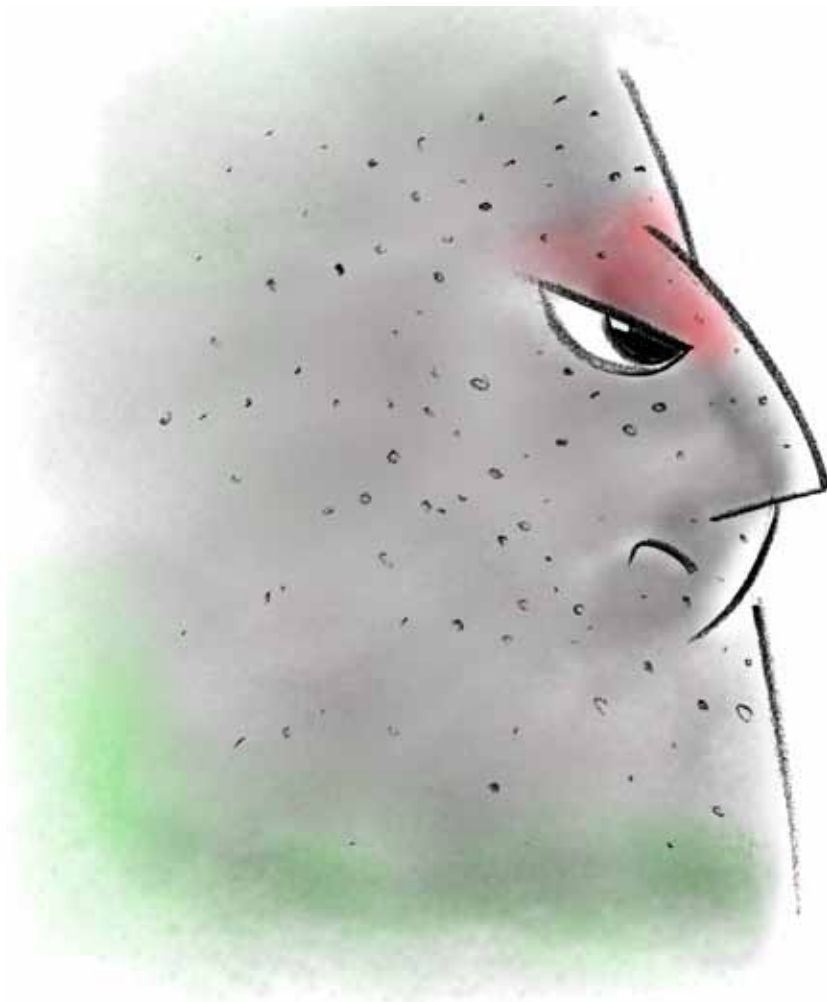
And one dragon adds: "Maybe Jeju has inherited more of Halla's powers..."



...like disappearing and emerging from volcanic rocks?..."



Jeju hears that... and gives it a try...
"I can blend!!! I can be one with stones!..."



Merging completely with the surrounding rocks, Jeju stares at his challenger: "Let's see who shall be king, my baron."



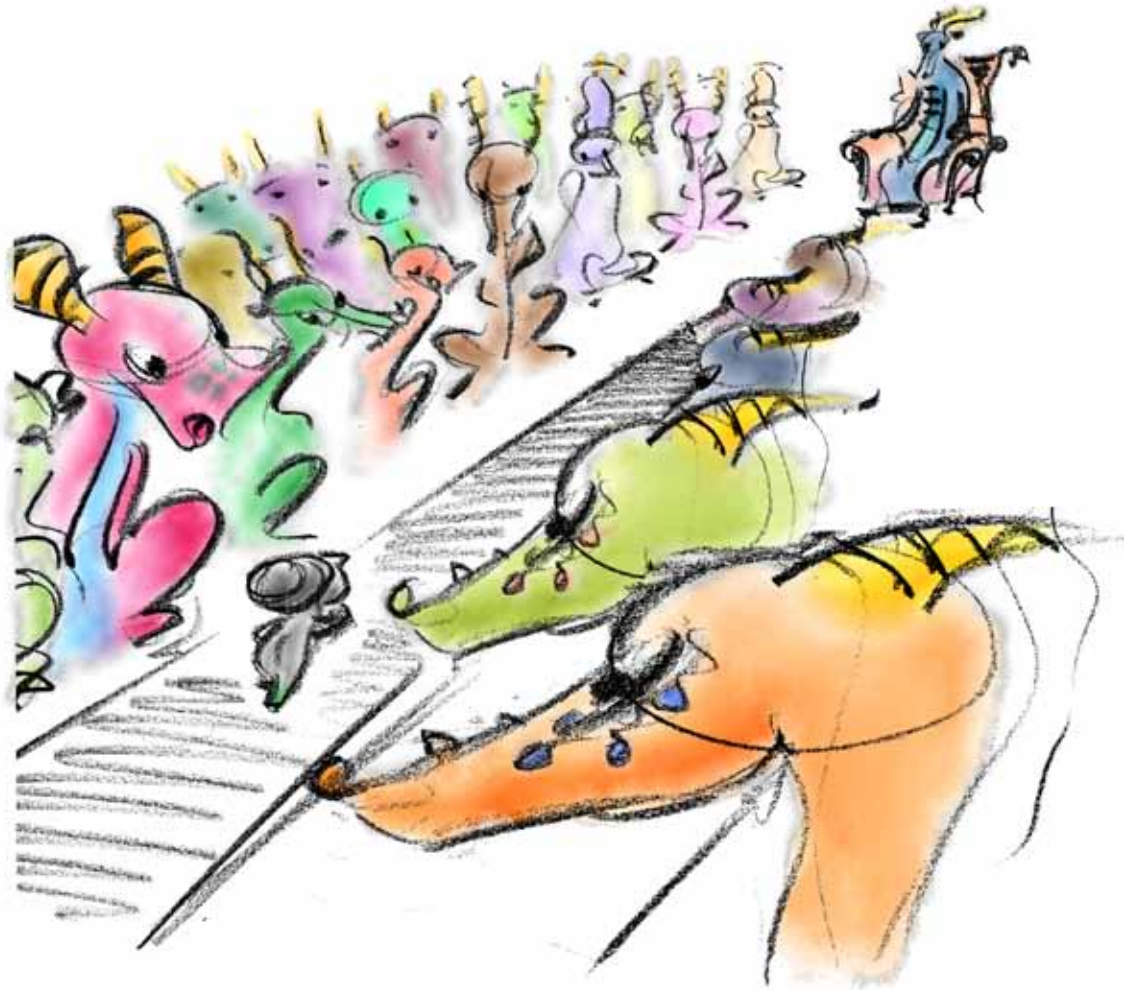
And Jeju the Stone Boy, son of a king and of a god, merges with the walls and floors of the crater, and strikes from every angle...



The duel ends quickly with Jeju's sword on the baron's throat. "Surrender or die!"



Baron Dragon is banished and... Jeju celebrated as a... well, as a God King.



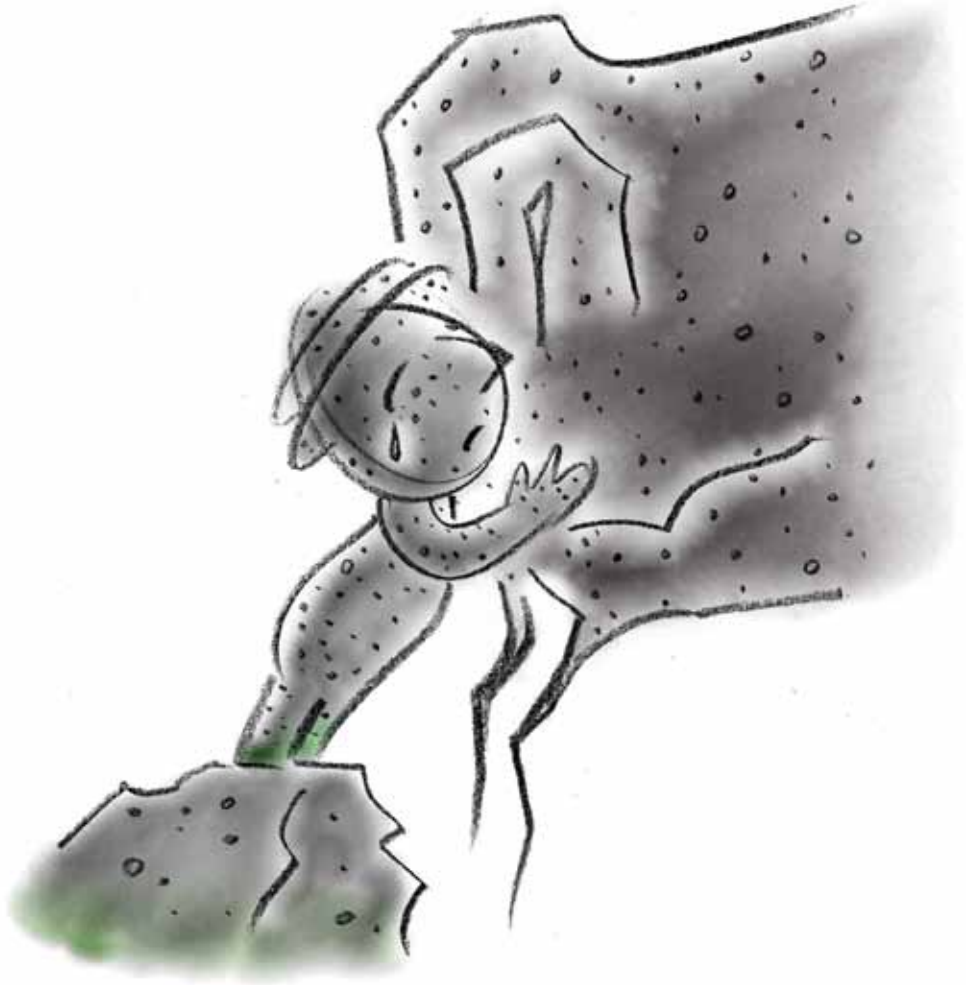
Soon the time comes when Jeju has to face his destiny. He must find the Plant of Eternity and breathe life back into his dragon father. He must defy Halla himself.



Brave Jeju bows in front of his mother the queen. His respect is returned with a caress, as his mother fears yet another arrow...



Jeju, Bo and Bay head to the mountains
full of hope.



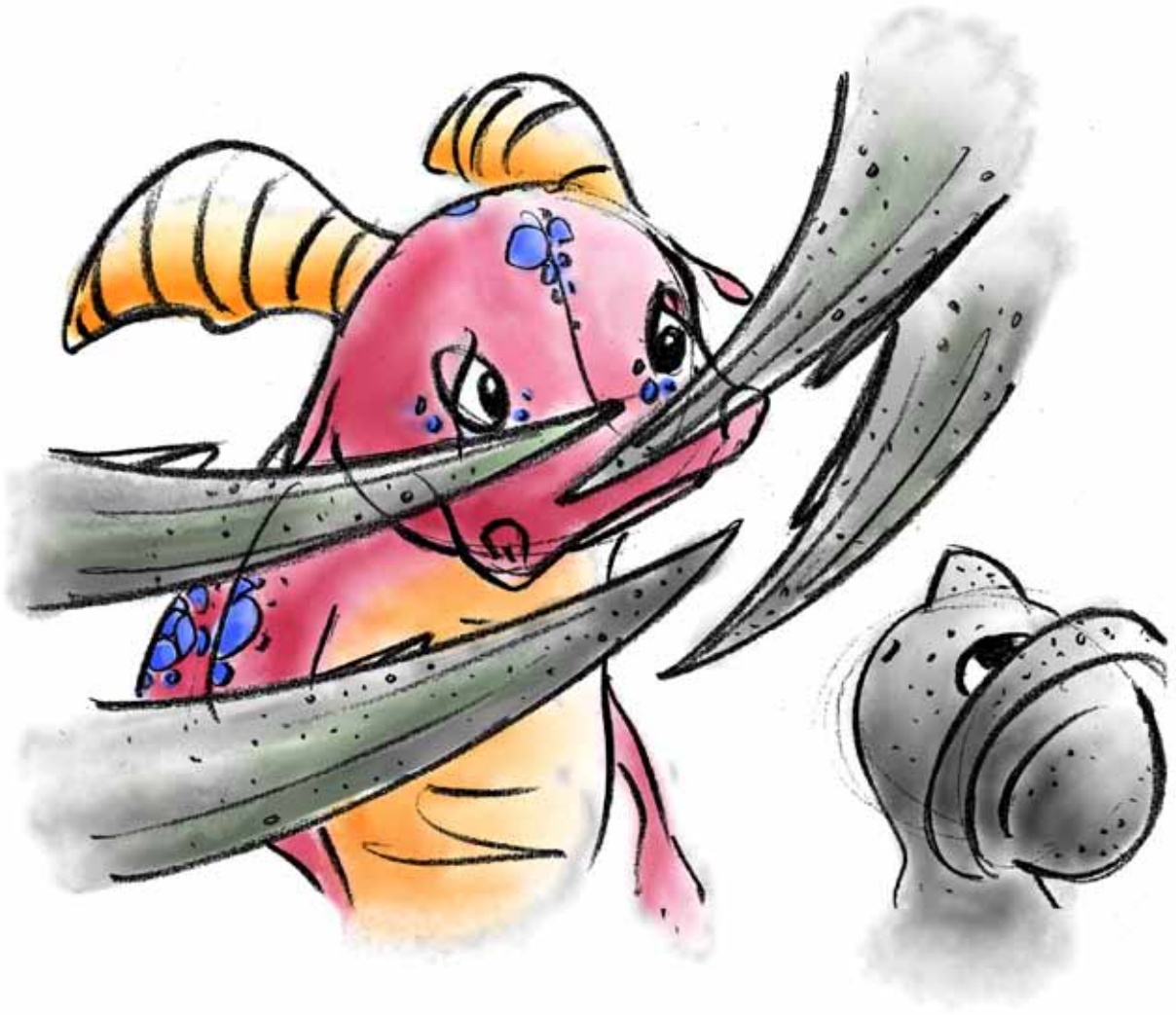
A day, a night,... part of another day pass,
and before climbing up to Halla's caves,
Jeju meets and embraces his cursed father...



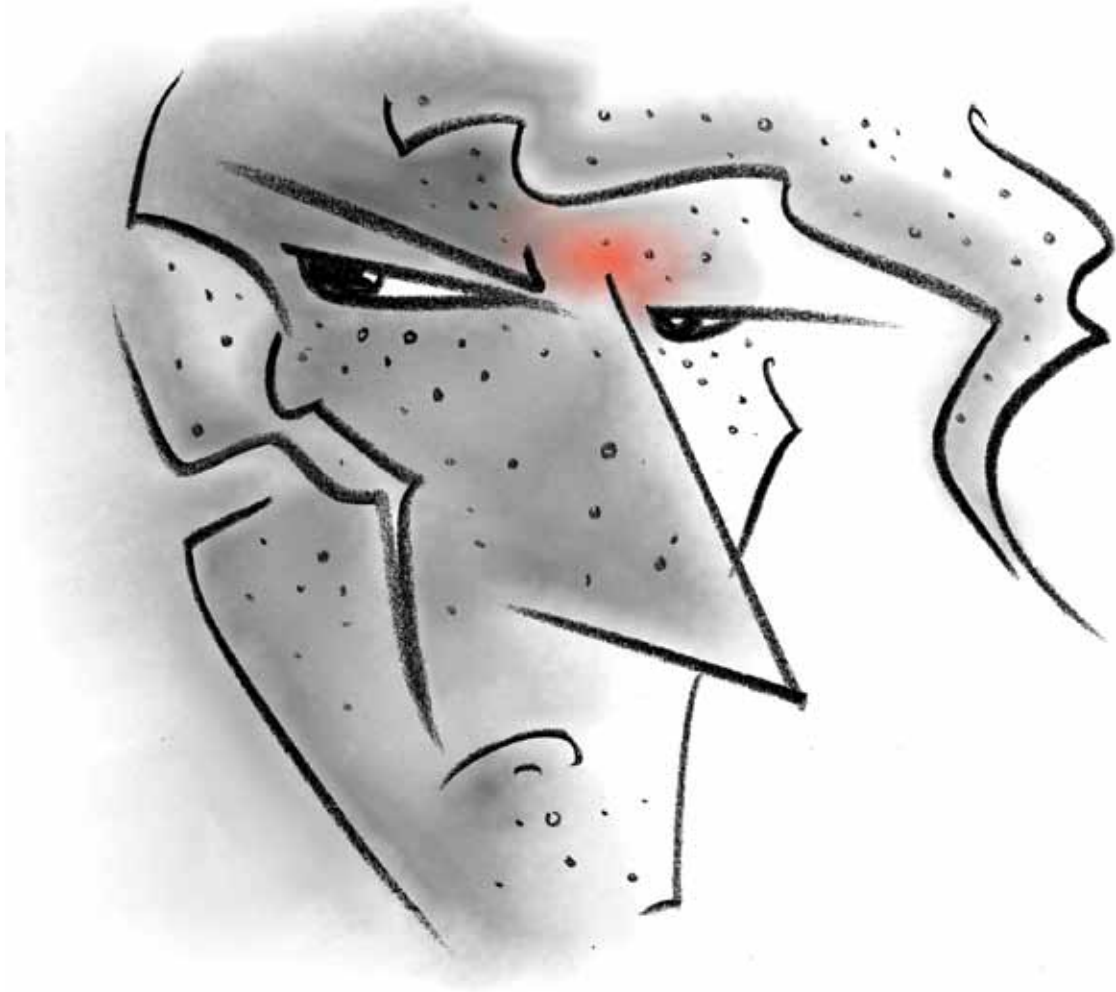
The three friends arrive at the entrance of Halla's home... All is quiet... Not even the wind can be heard...



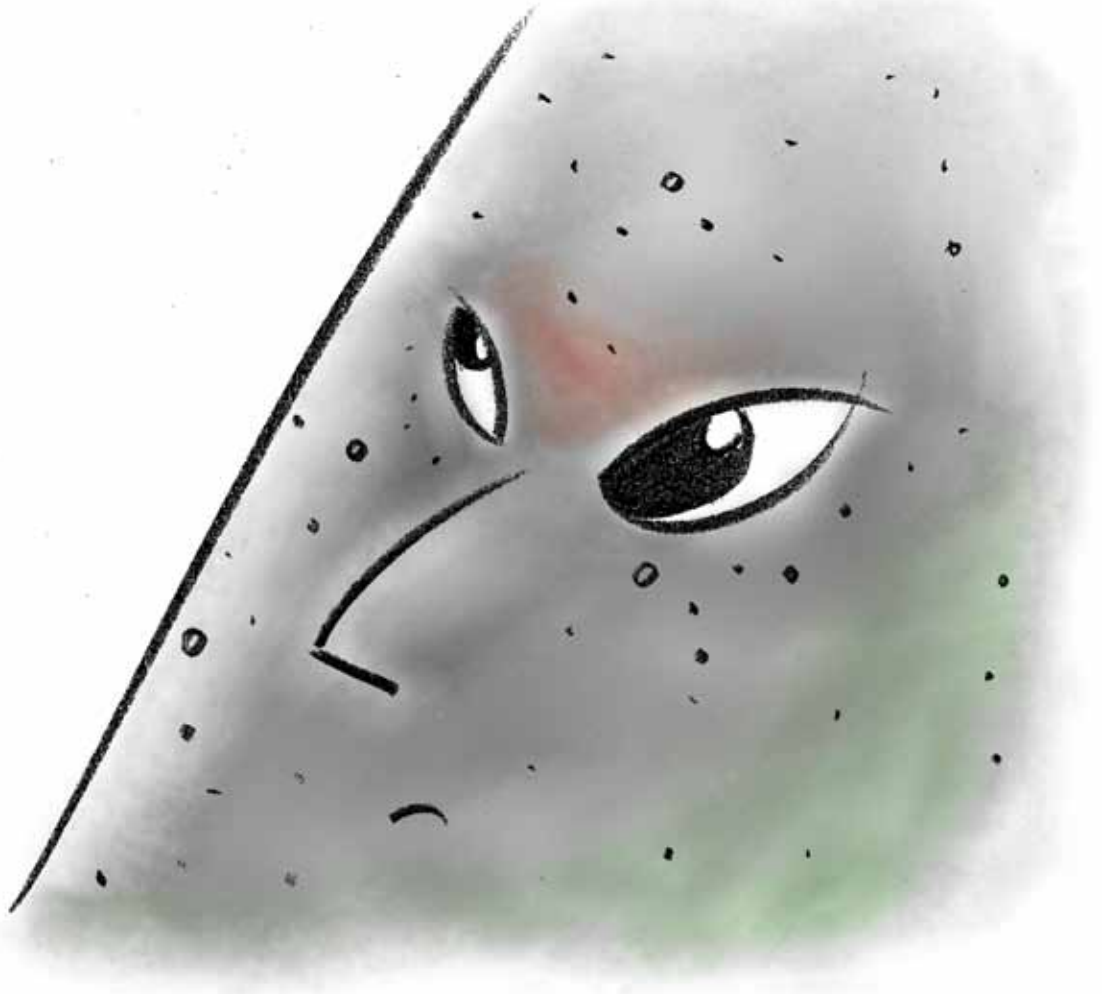
But there is no easy path to the god's most secret place, the garden of the Plant of Eternity, and Bay is trapped first!...



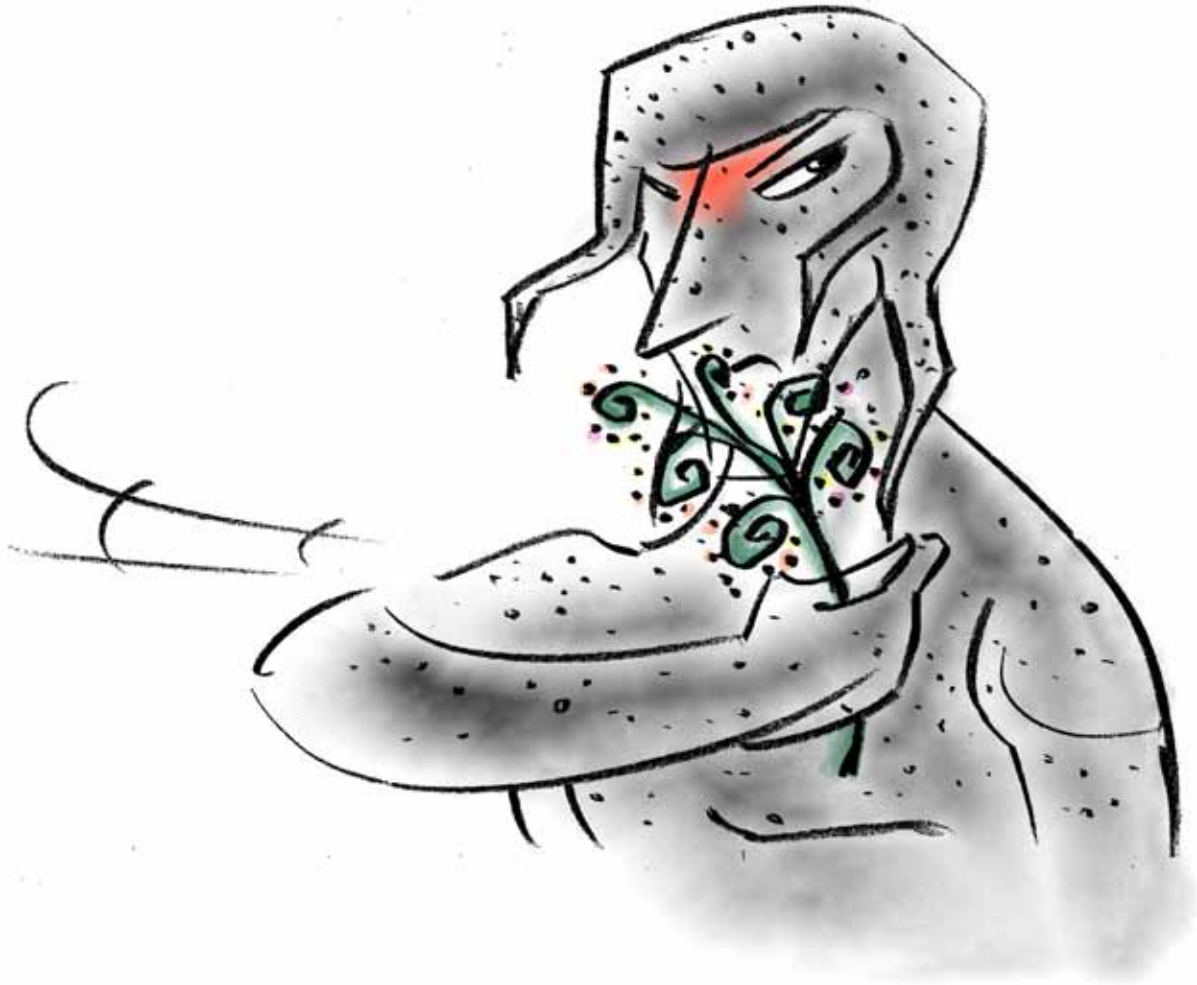
Then, Bo too is imprisoned in stone, and Jeju knows he must face Halla alone.



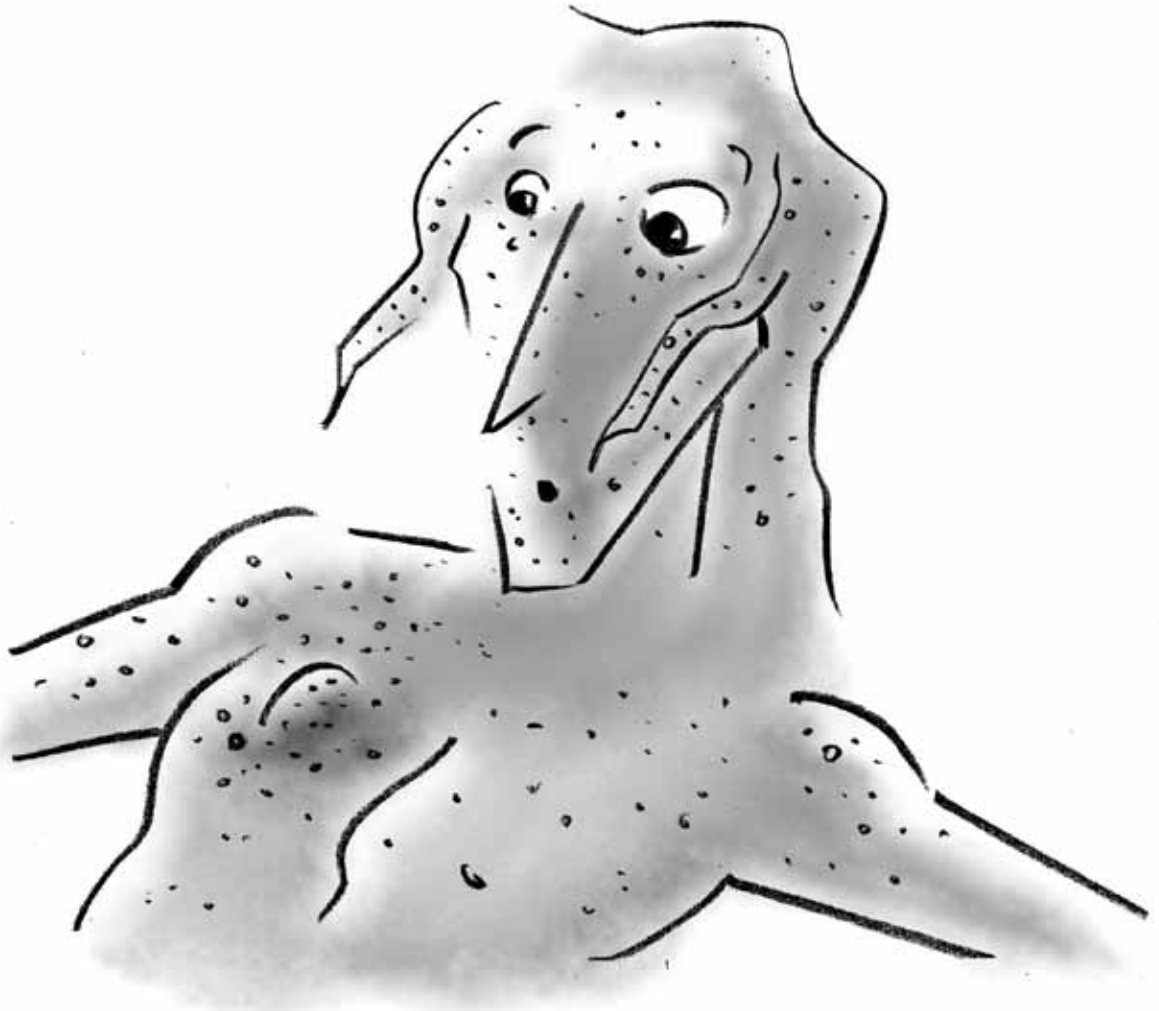
Deep in his caves, the God of the Mountains feels something unusual around him... Someone special has come to him...



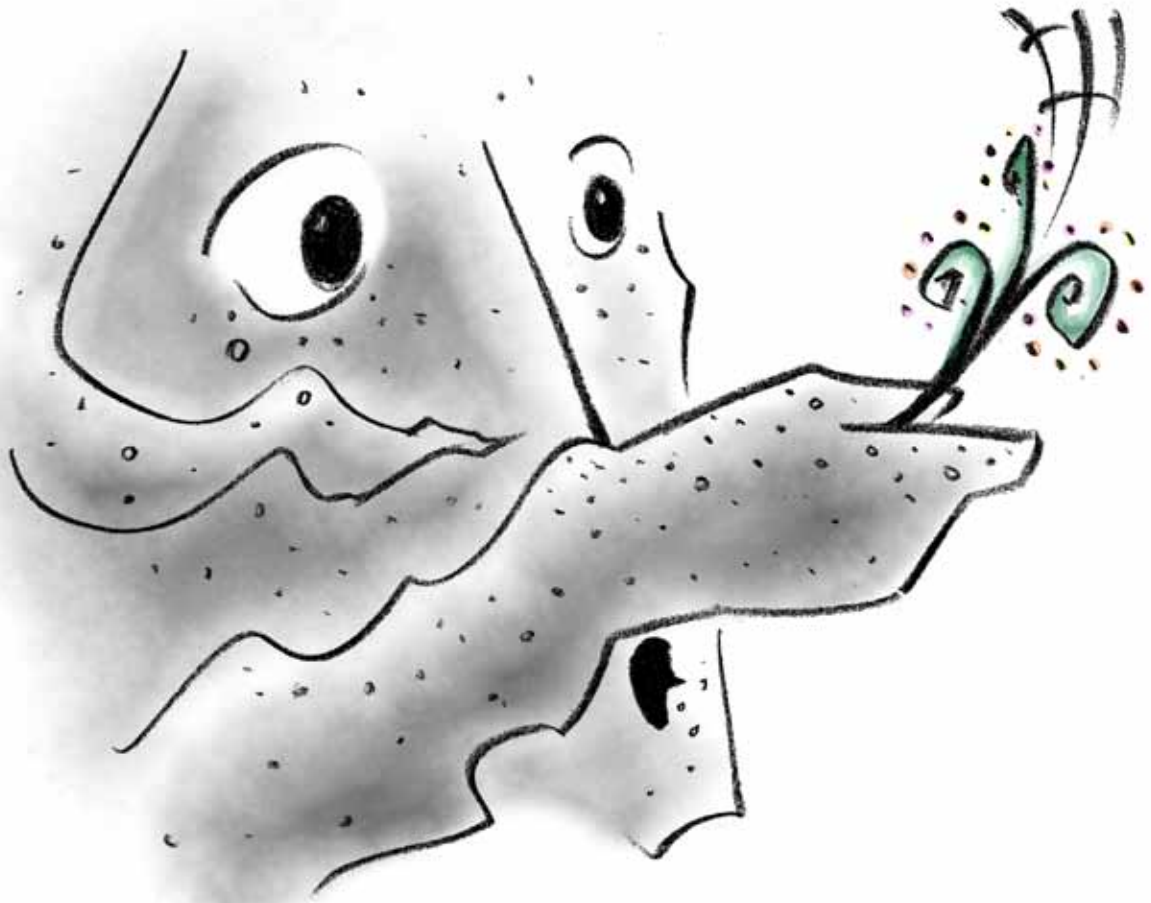
Hidden in the volcanic walls, Jeju looks up
at his "other" father...



Sensing a threat, Halla clasps
the Plant of Eternity to his chest...



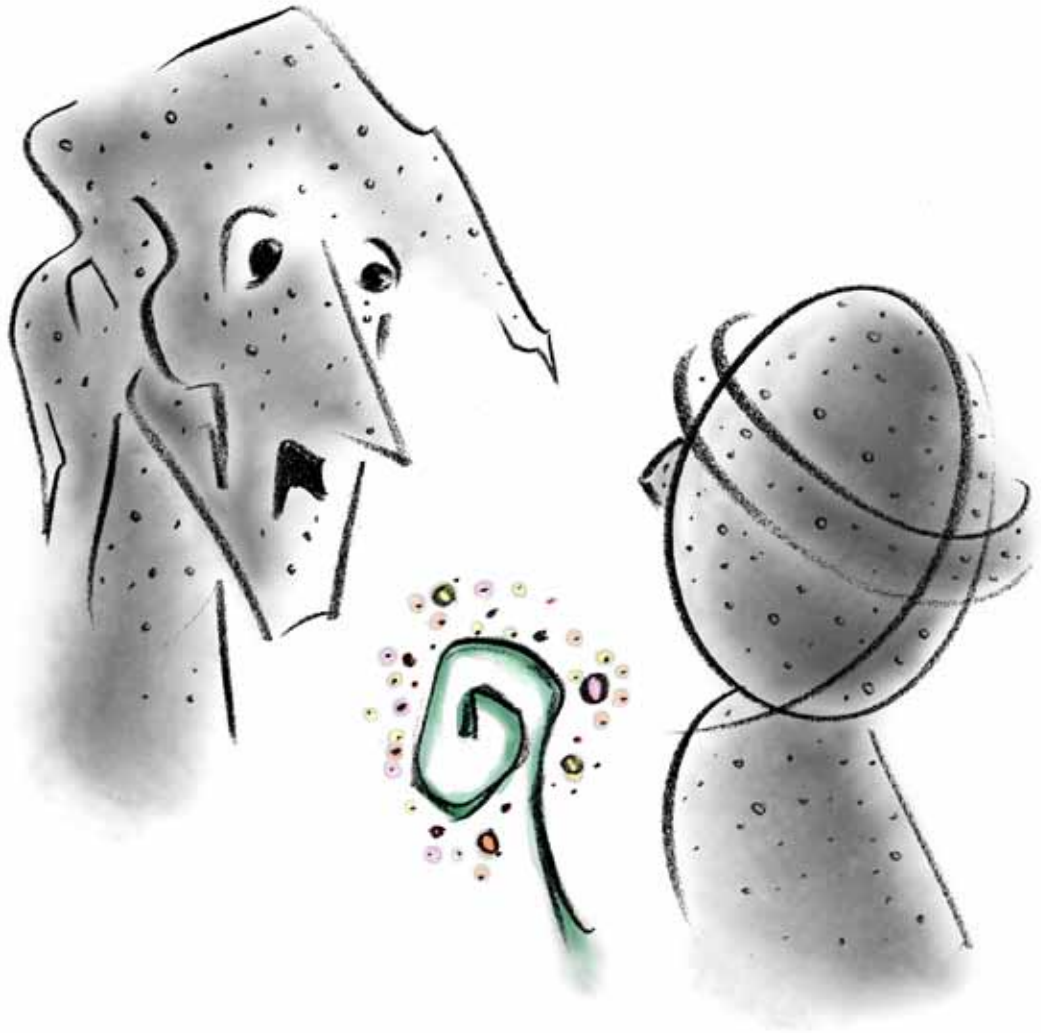
Suddenly, his stone body is crawling with another life!.



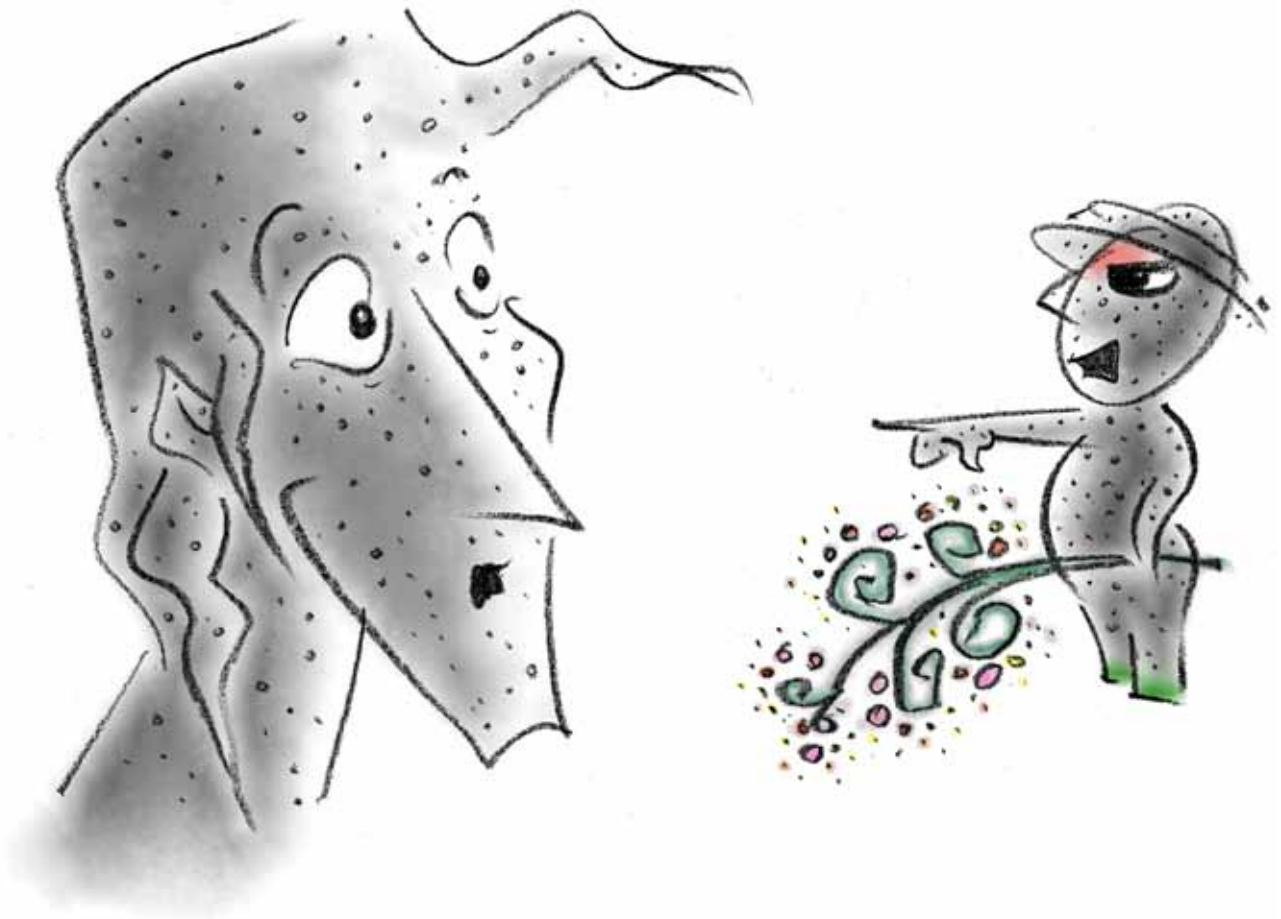
That "thing" in him crawls through his arm and "hop!", the Plant of Eternity disappears, taken from inside his own hand!!!



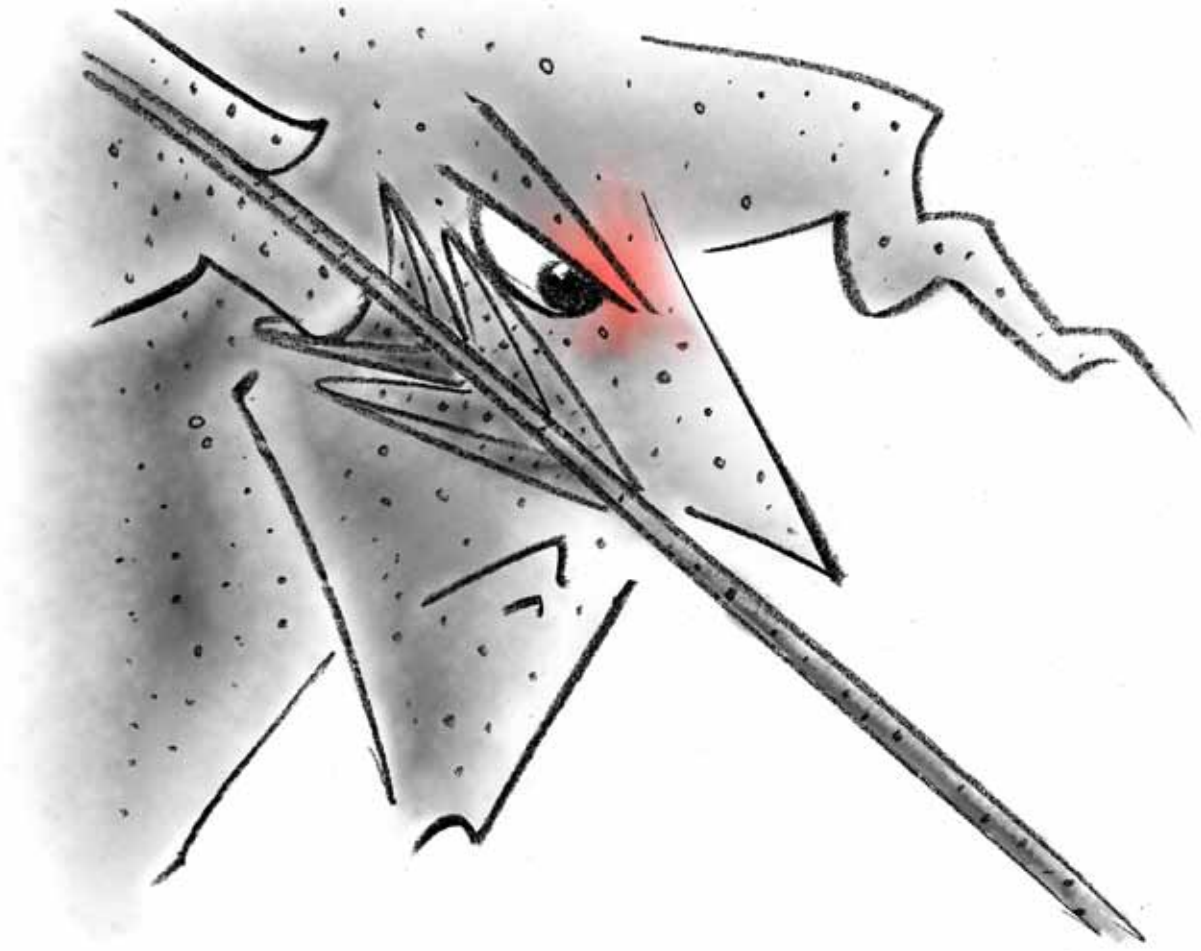
And Jeju pops out of Halla's chest!



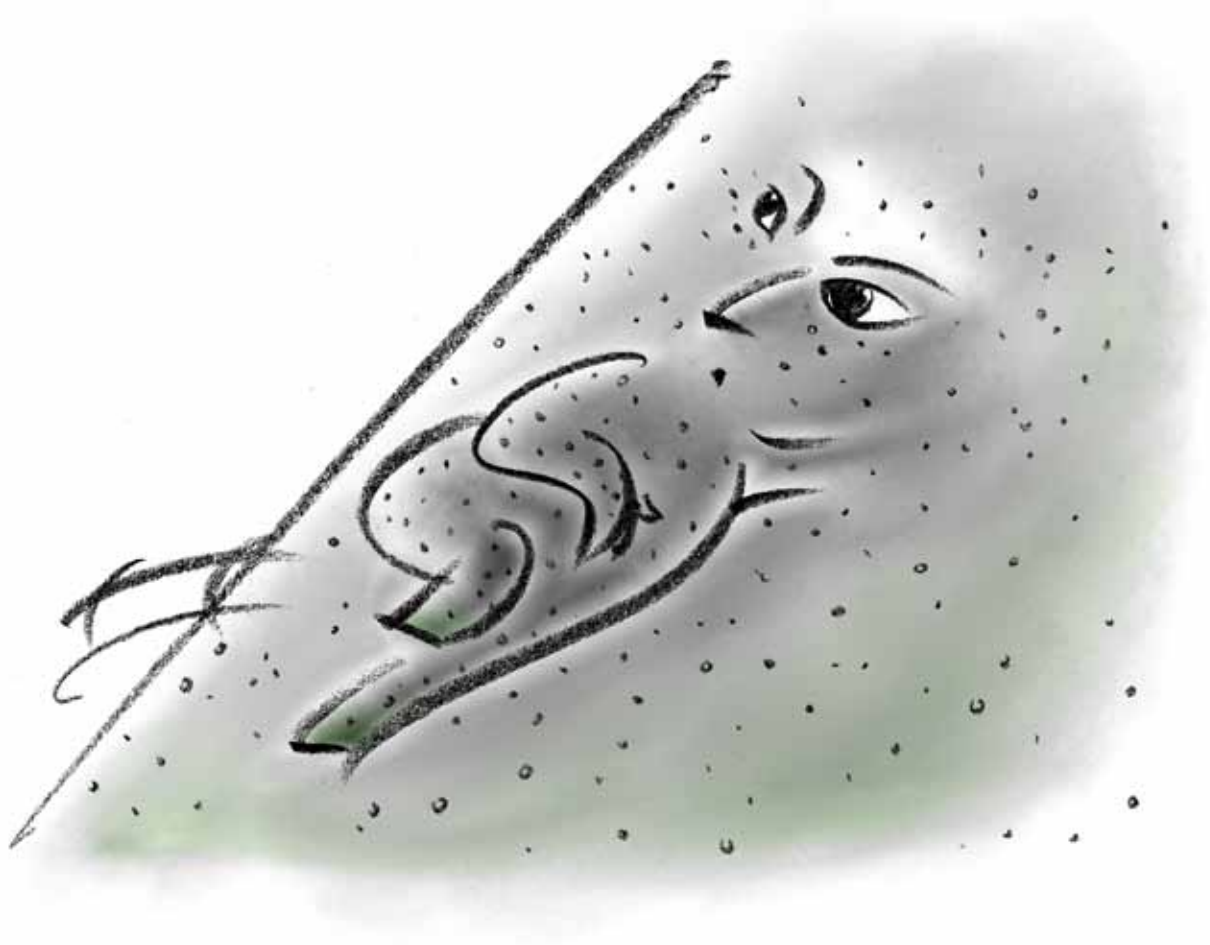
"What... wh...who are you?"
is all the god can stammer.



"I am your son!"
replies the determined Stone Boy.



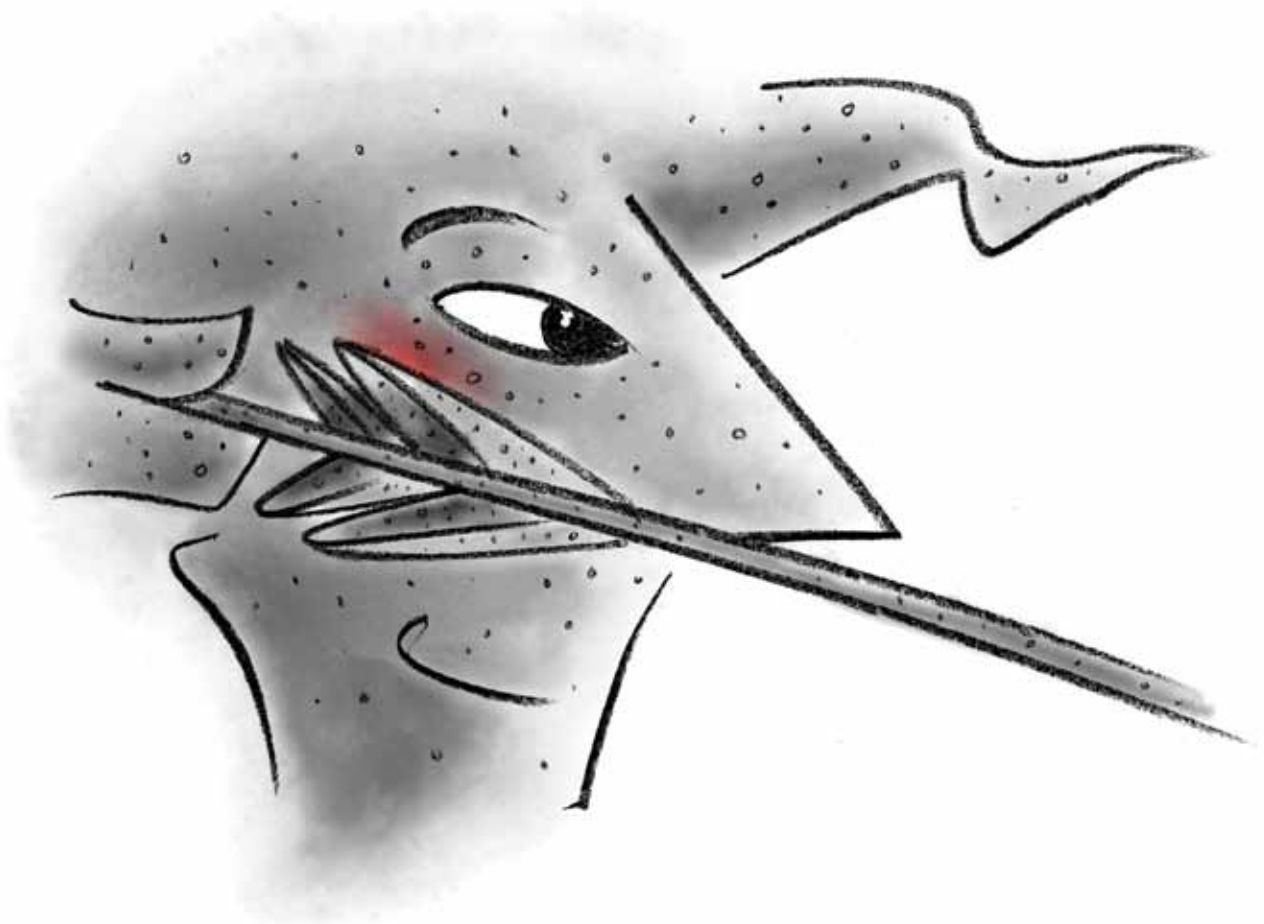
“Whoever you pretend to be, your punishment will be the same as for the others.” Halla threatens.



Swiftly, Jeju vanishes in the nearby rocks with the precious plant.



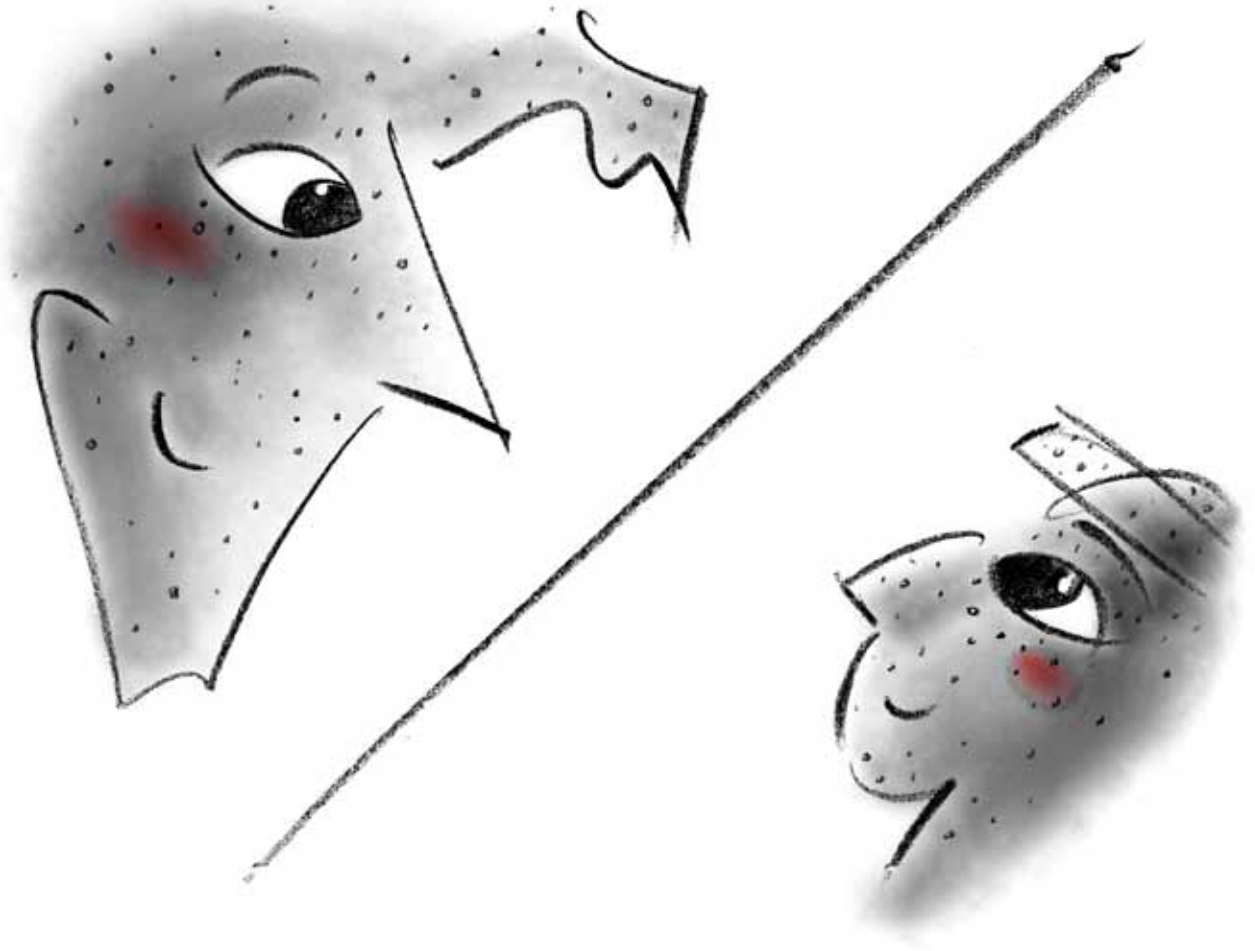
Soon, the little brave one comes out of the mountain and runs to his dragon father.



The god relaxes in an unusual way... A new emotion grows in him for the strange boy.
"Is it respect?!... Or care?"



And the arrow that never misses,
flies just above Jeju's head...



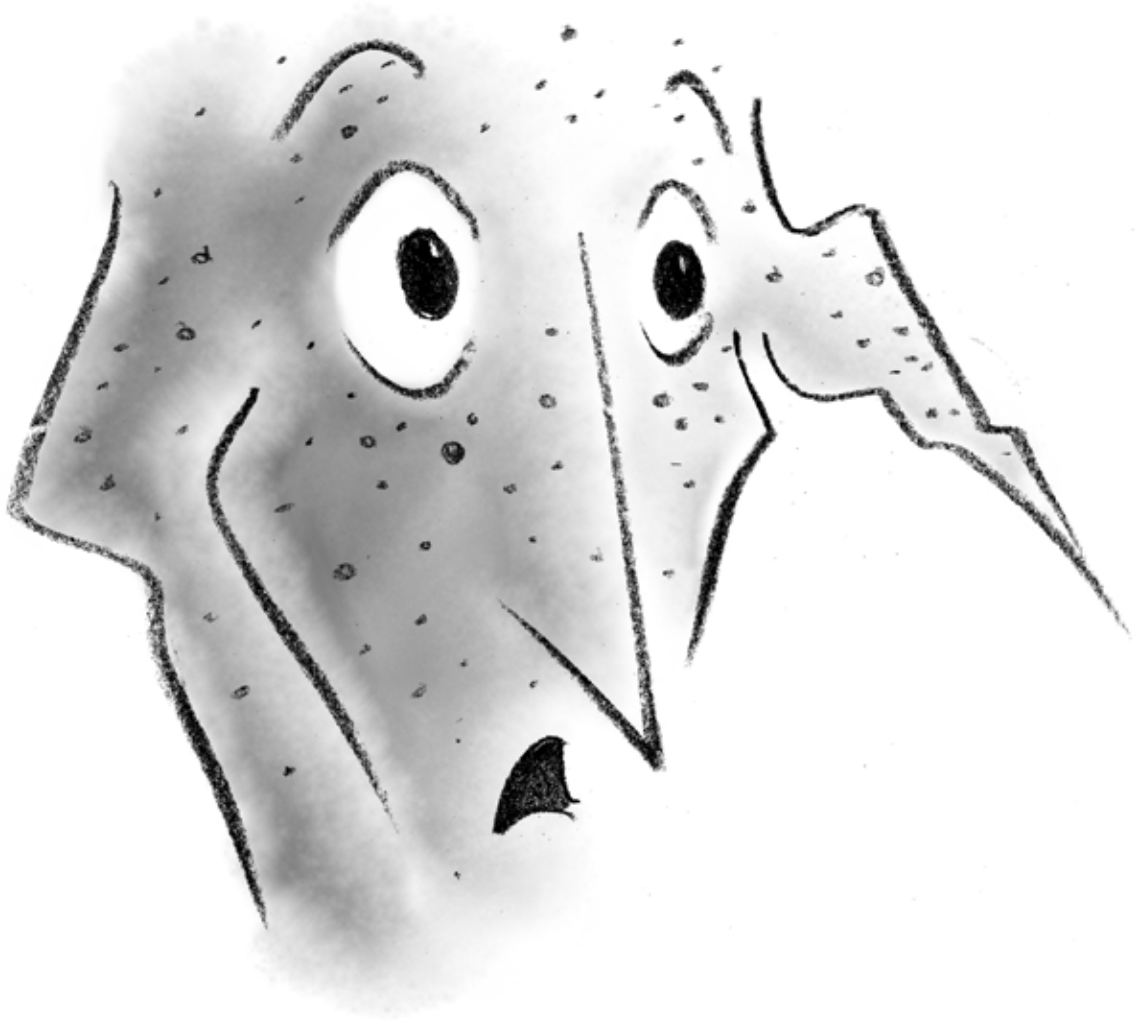
Jeju looks back and sees the God
of the Mountains with a new face:
the face of a father...



Jeju knows now he can feed the Plant of Eternity to his dragon father without worries.



Just as Jeju is about to fulfill his filial duty,
Baron Dragon creeps out from behind rocks...



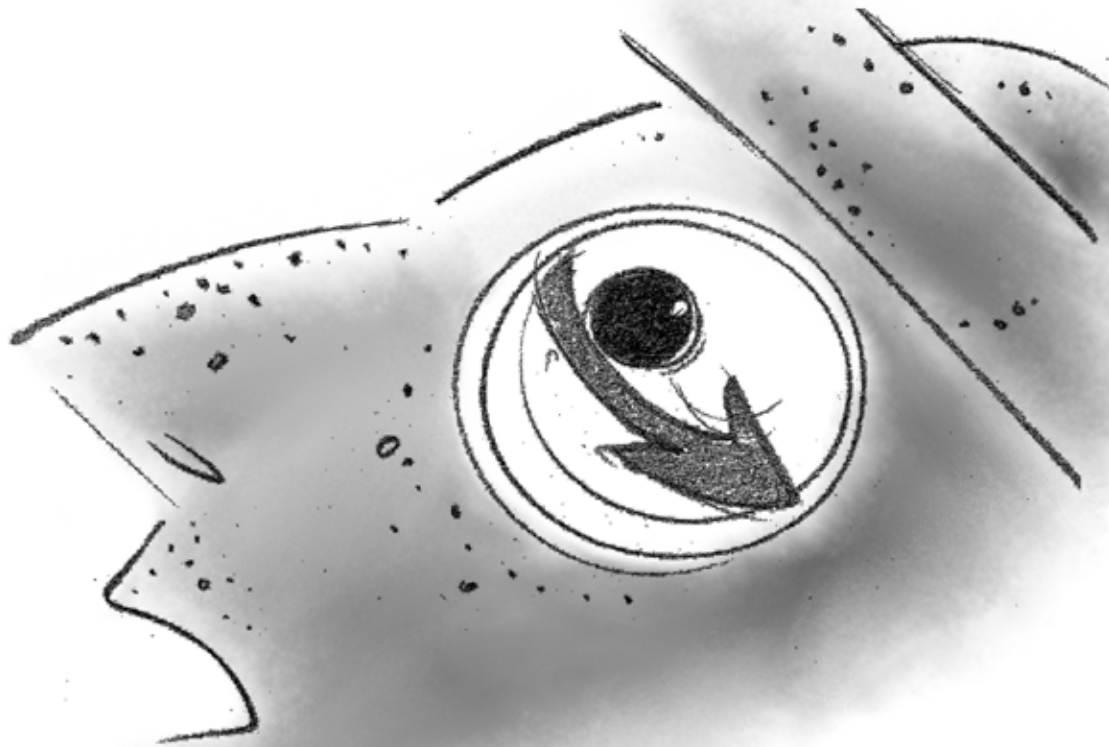
The fatherly spirit springs in Halla as
he senses a great danger threatens his son!



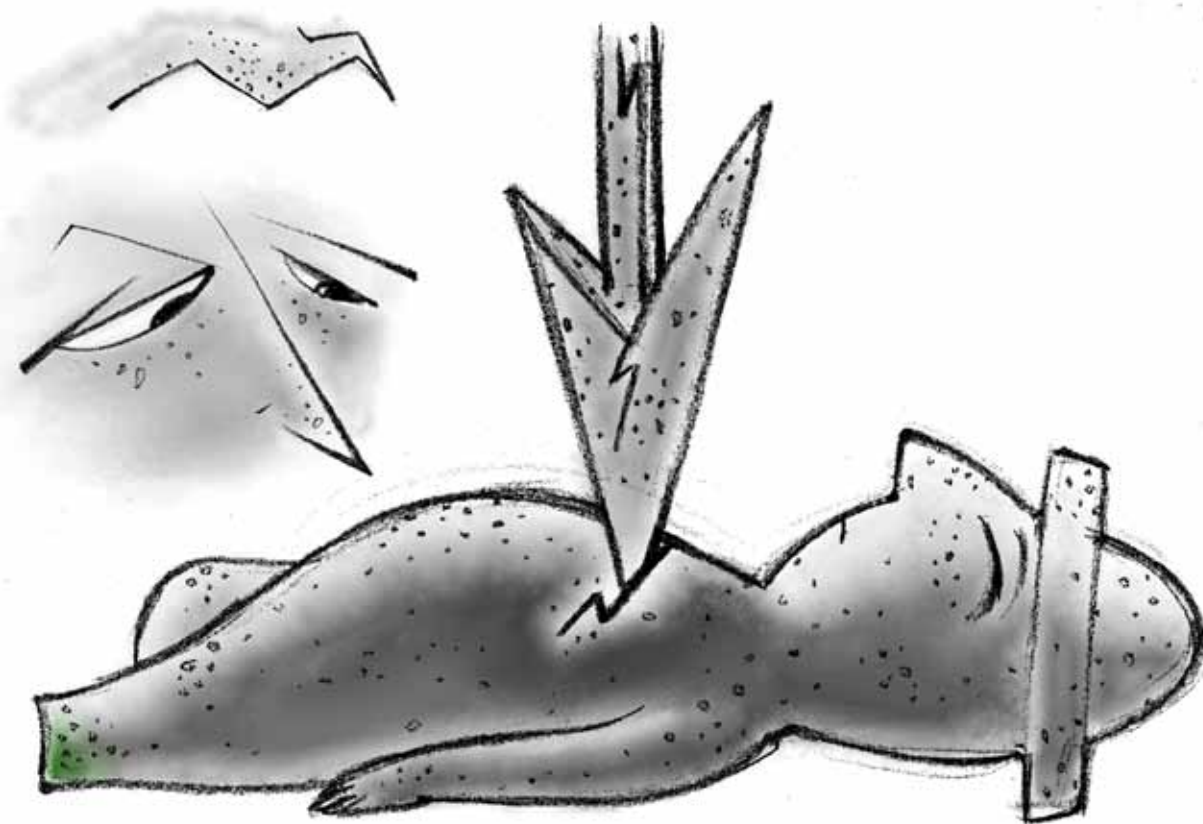
Halla's arrow has been retrieved by the baron, and he lifts it high above the Stone Boy...



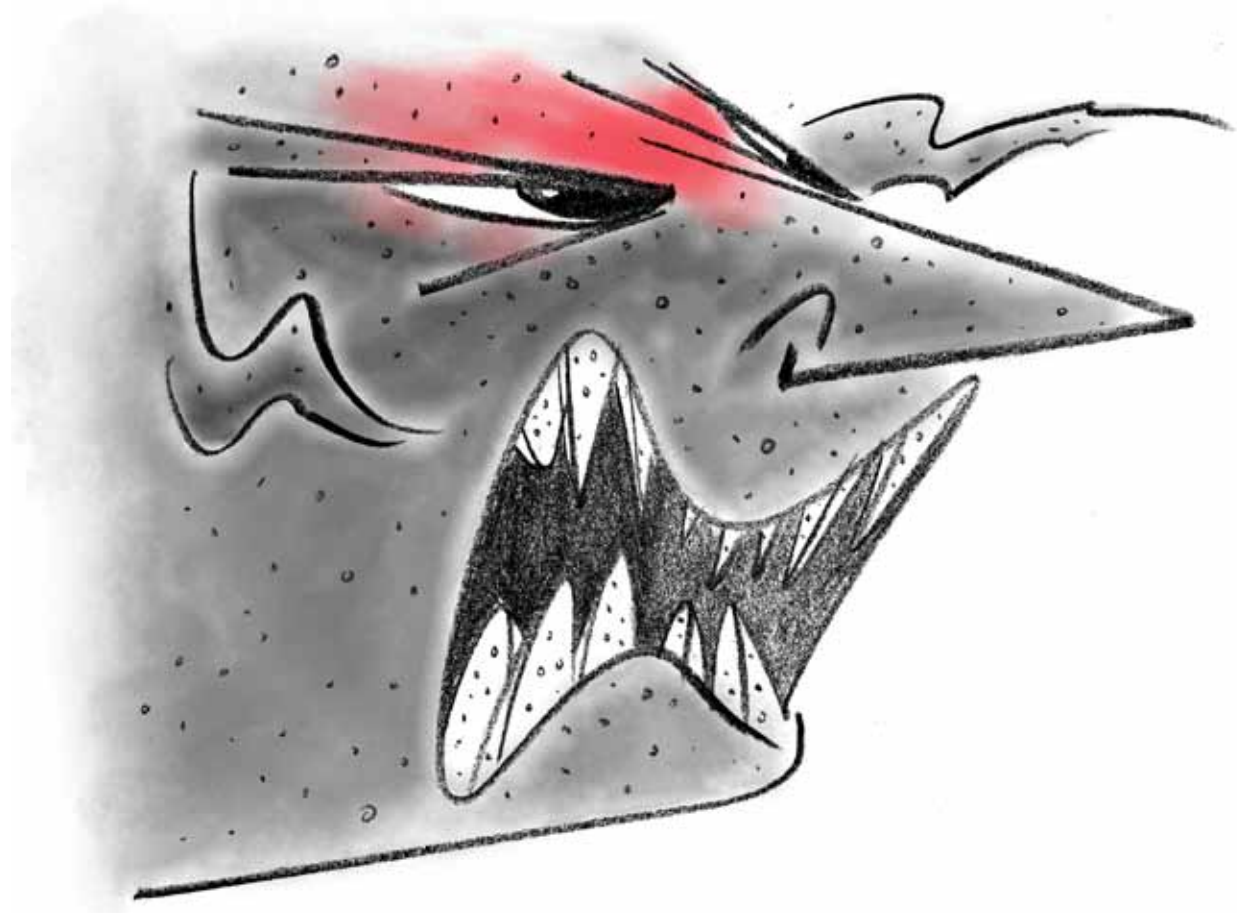
The god of stone panics as a father would,
and rushes to the scene...



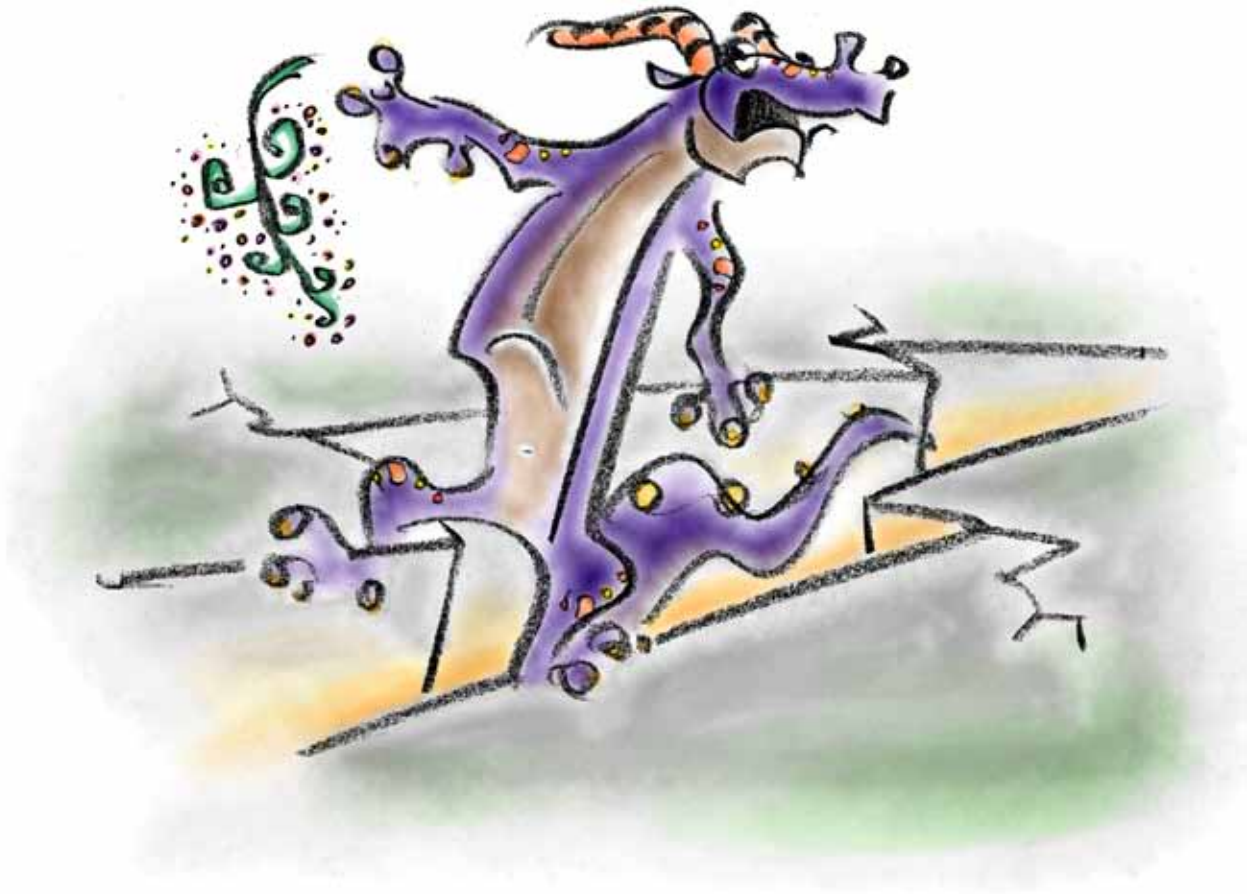
Alerted by Halla's shouts, Jeju looks back only to see the celestial weapon quickly coming down at him.



The arrow sculpted by his father pierces deep into Jeju's heart... and the god can only watch...



Mad, furious, Halla turns to the baron
and roars his despair and anger...



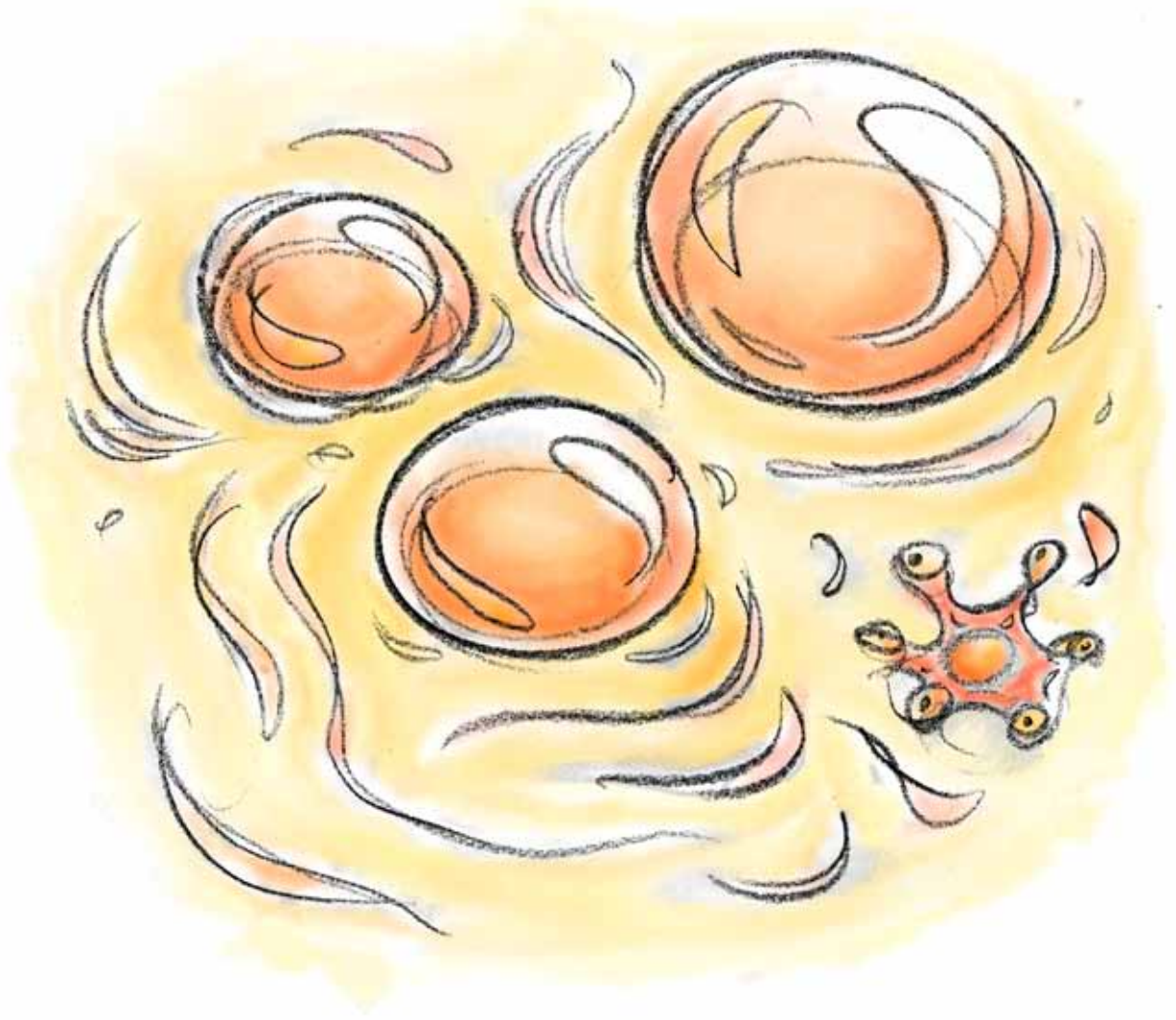
Under Baron Dragon the earth splits!
The traitorous creature plummets down
through the crack... with the Plant of Eternity!



...and the lava bellow swallow them both.



Sorrow fills Halla as he realizes his anger led him to a fatal mistake... the plant that could have saved his son has now vanished...



...in the heart of the boiling earth.



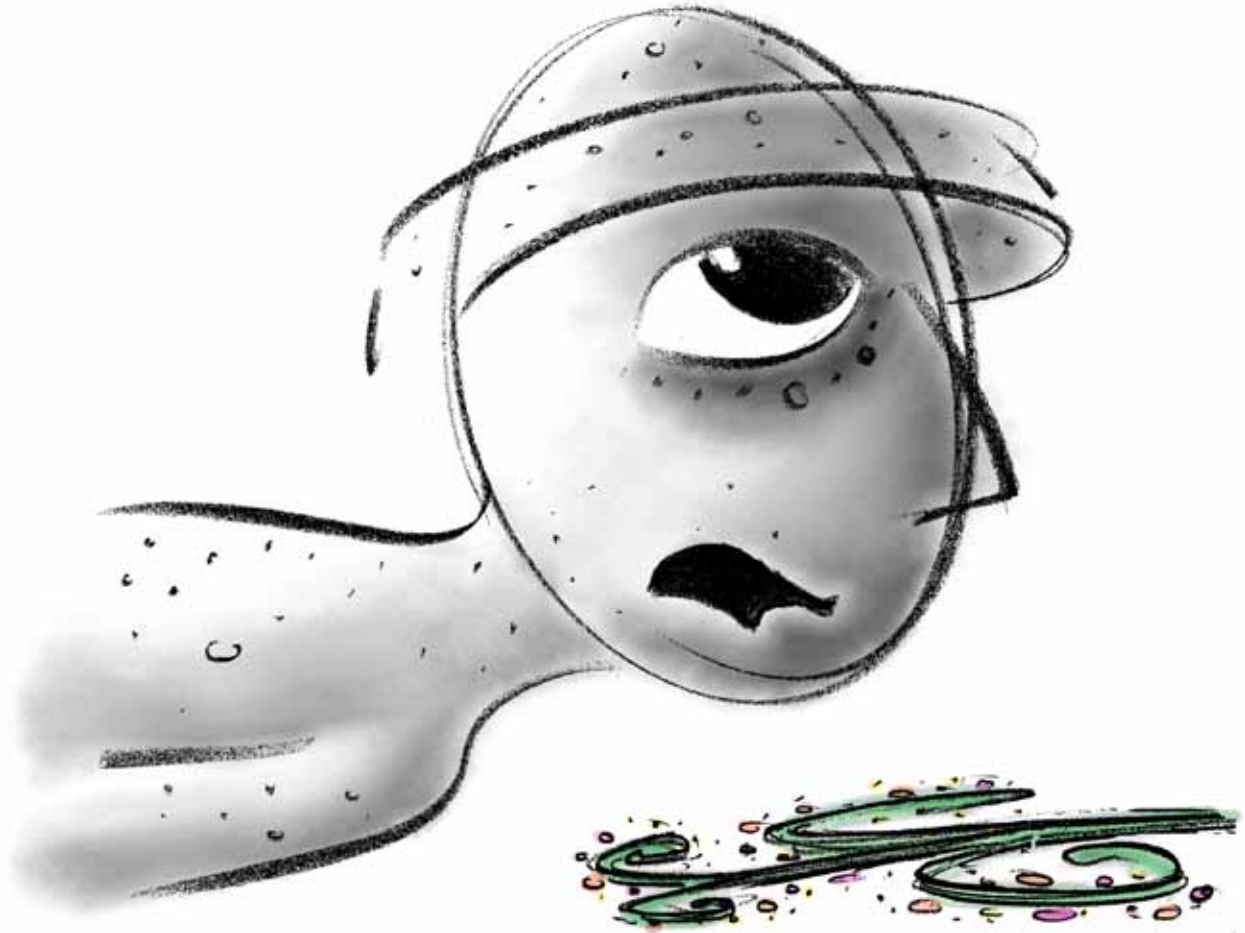
But... what in the world is...



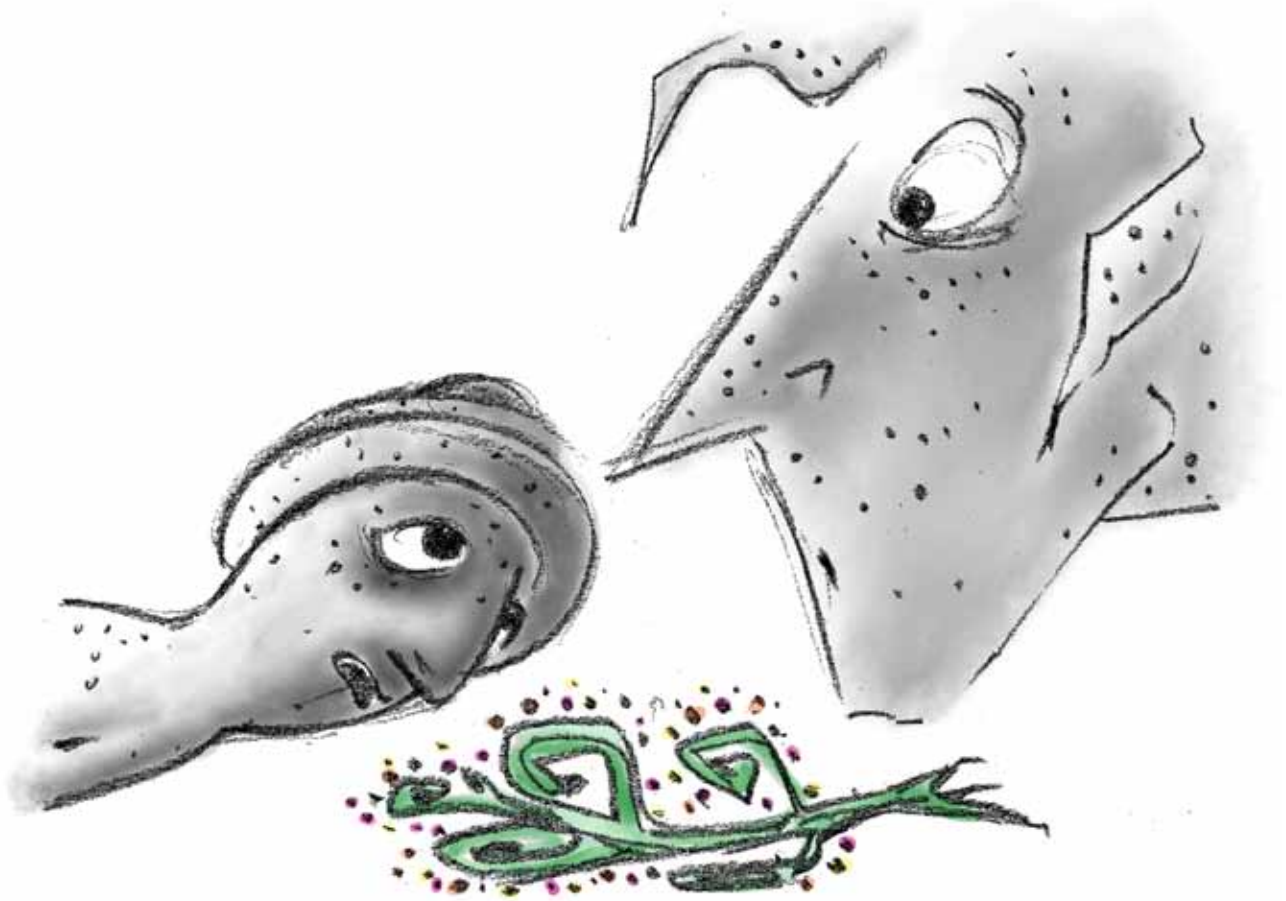
It's Bo!!! And he's got the Plant of Eternity!



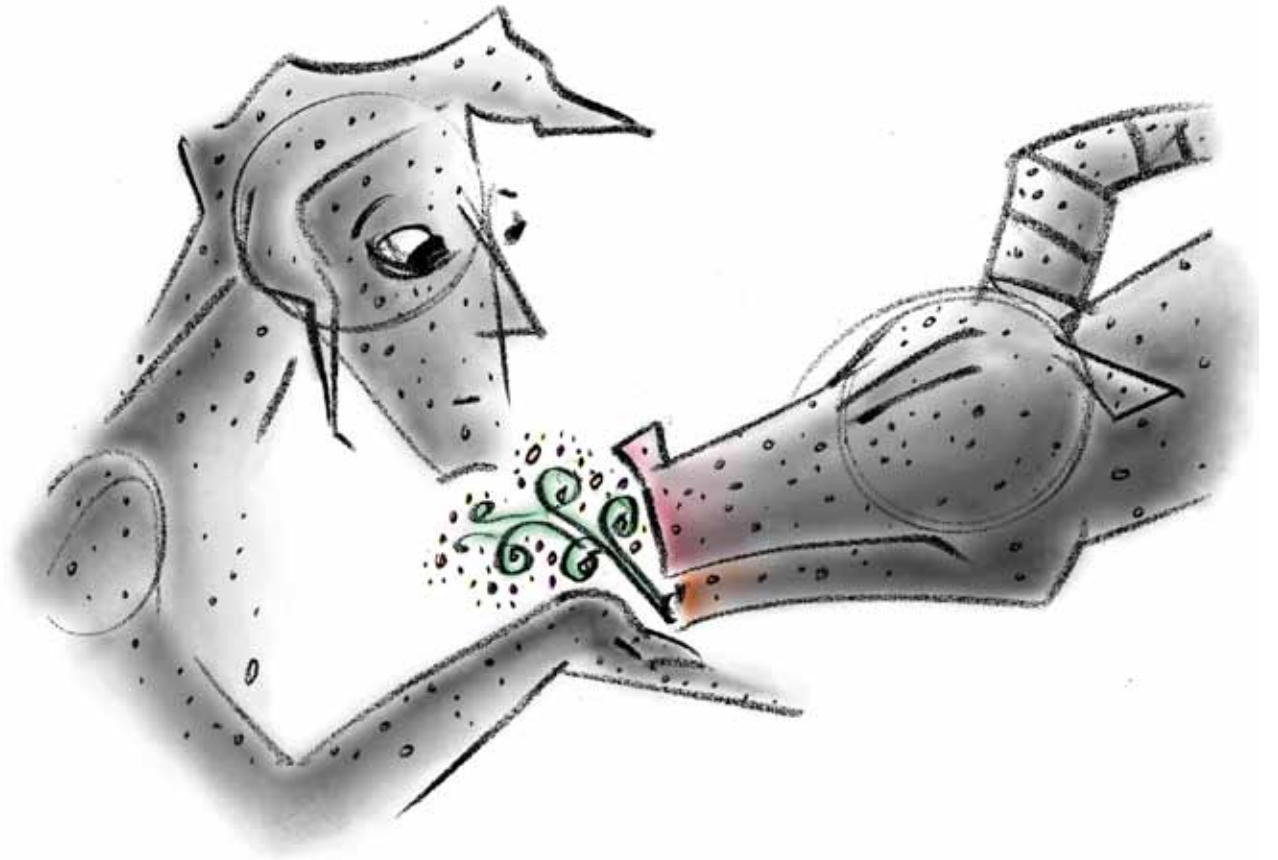
Halla, Bo and Bay bring the plant to a dying Jeju, hoping to revive him.



Jeju makes a last effort and says:
"Father, grant me one wish."
"Anything my son," replies the god.



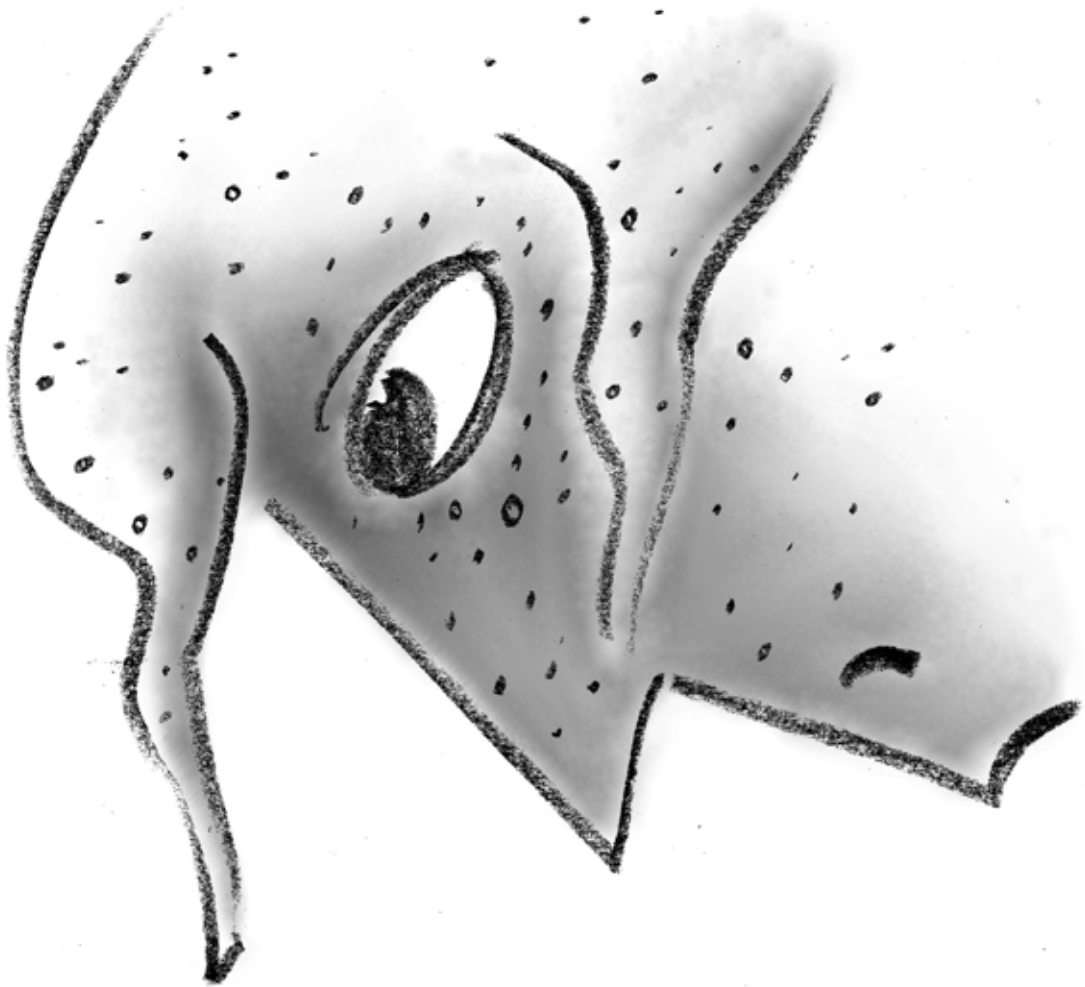
"Father, feed the Plant of Eternity to my dragon father." Halla, dismayed, can only bow to the beauty of sacrifice.



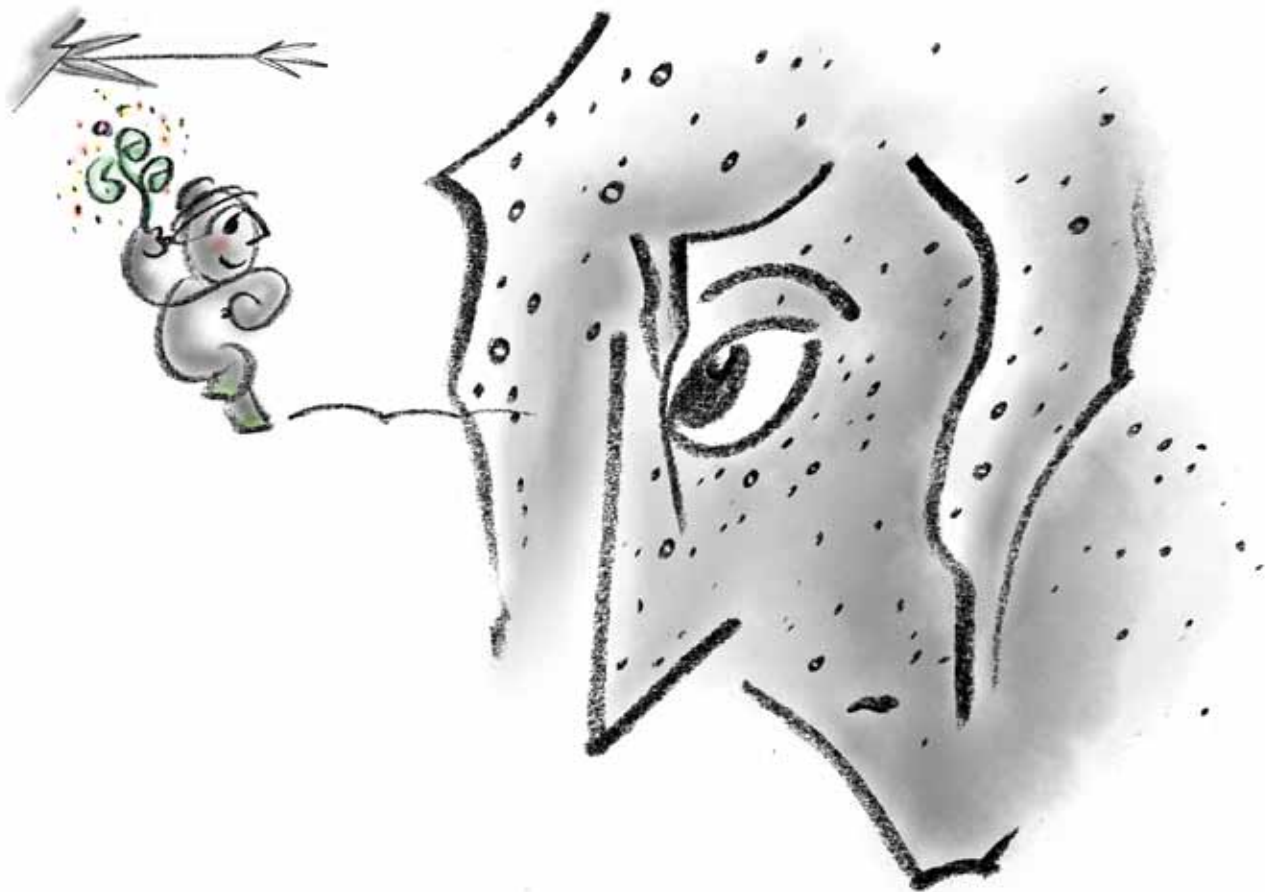
So, the God of the Mountains feeds his former victim the Plant of Eternity...



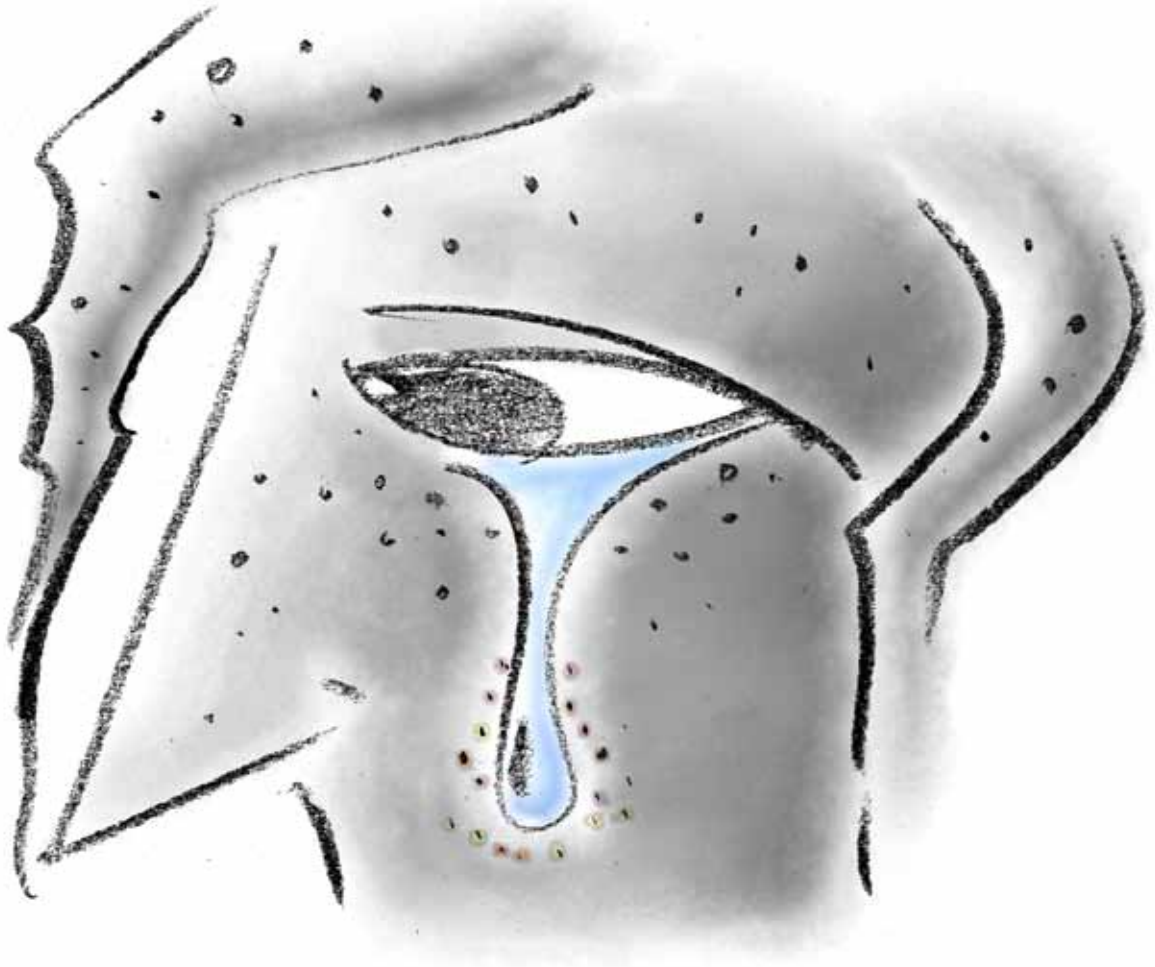
Soon the two fathers are united, only to witness the last breath of their son...



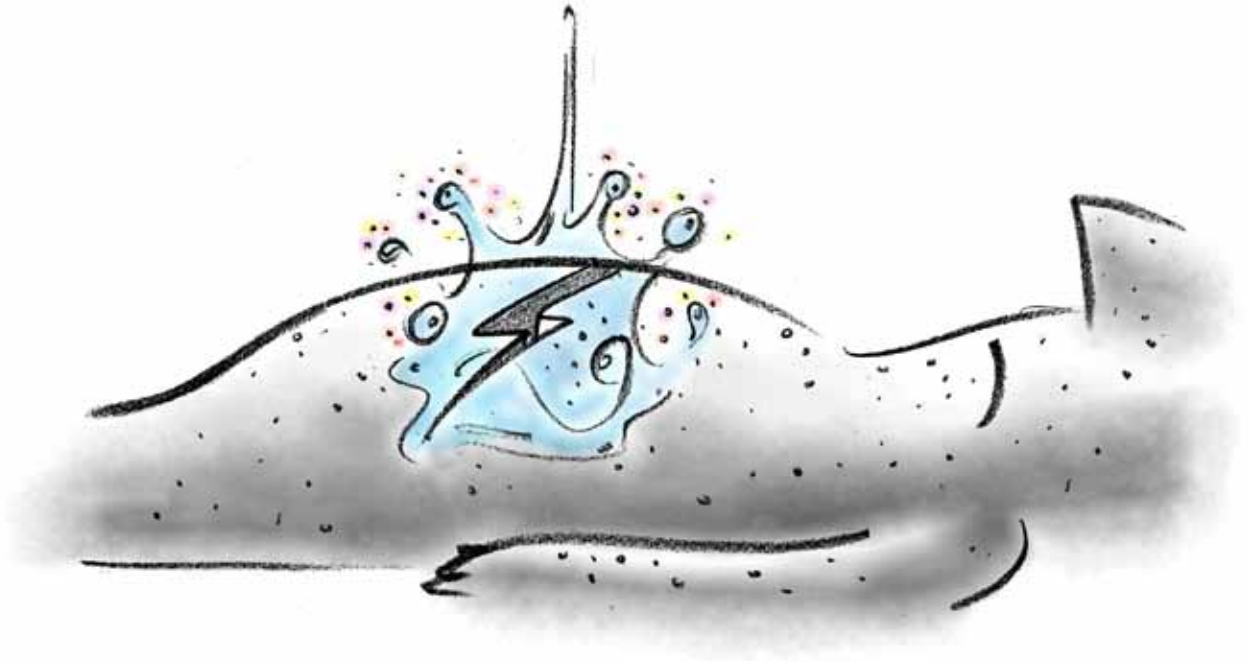
All are weeping except for Halla. But he feels ashamed of his lack of emotion.



until... memories of the brave and clever
little Jeju, his son, come back to him...



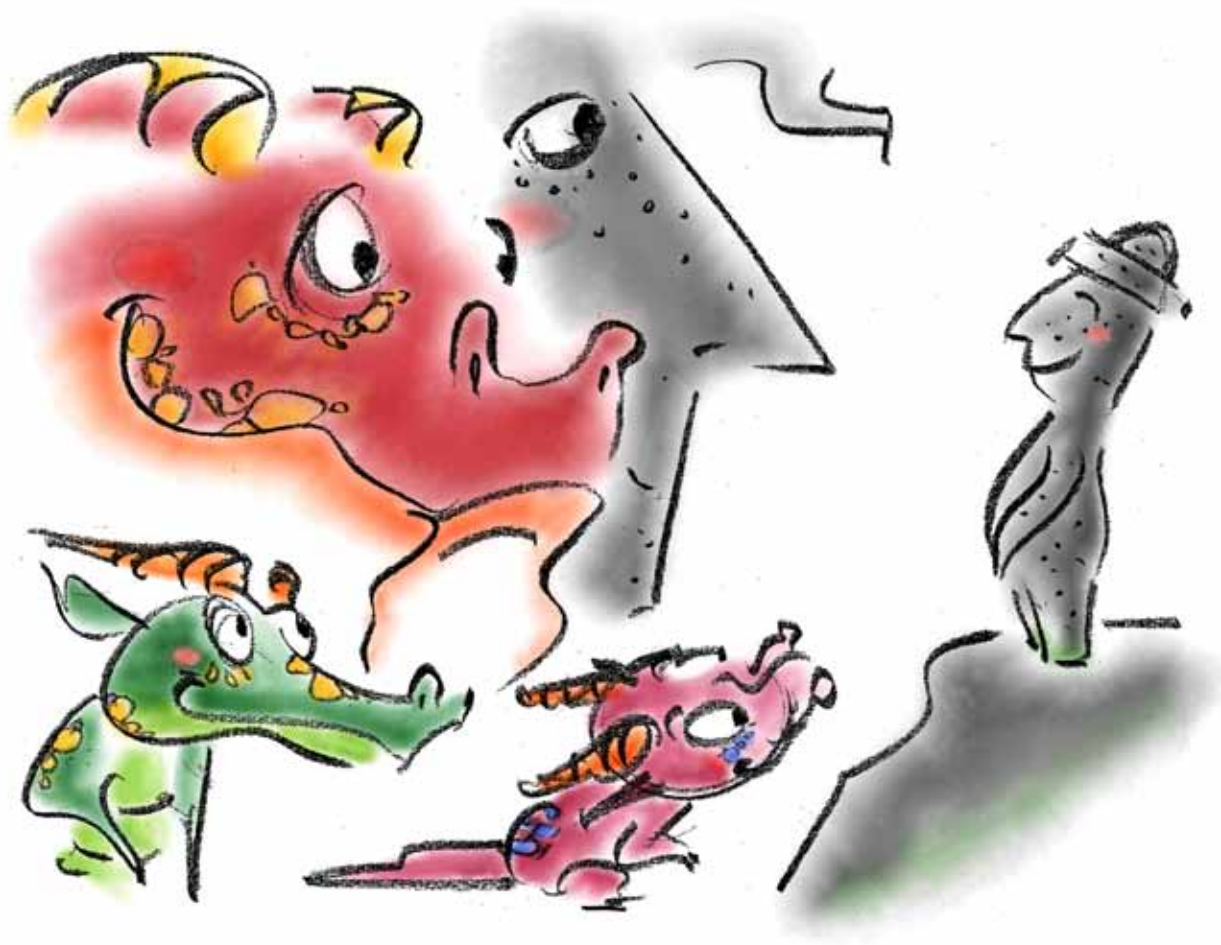
And what was never thought possible happens.
The God of the Mountains sheds a tear, which
slowly rolls along his cheek and...



...drops on Jeju's wound.



When they lift up their heads...
Jeju has disappeared!!!



And... he is back!!! popping out of
the volcanic stone!



The mountains themselves seem to celebrate the reunion of Jeju and his dragon father.

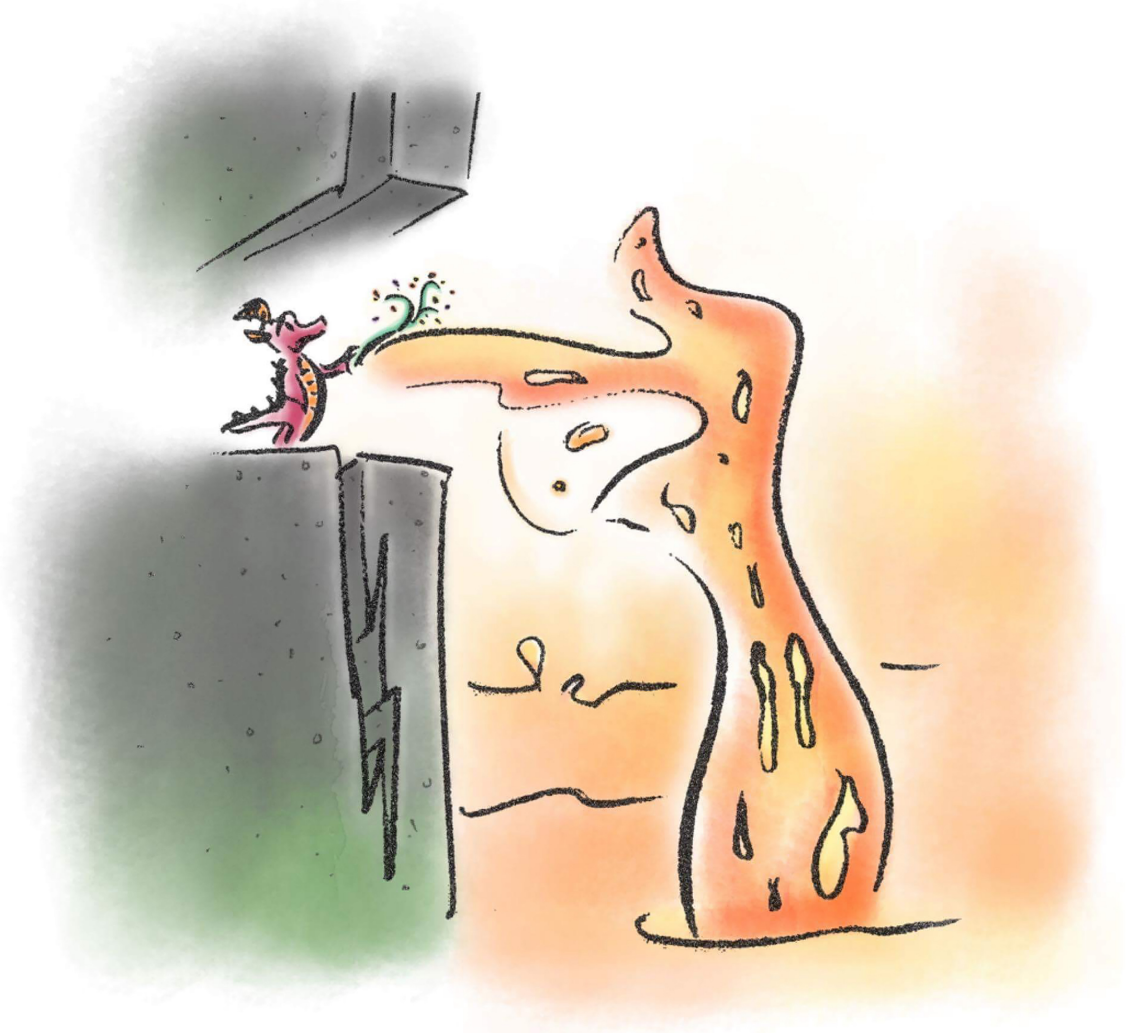


A wonderful night with plenty of memories is shared by Jeju, his fathers and his friends by the fire...



And as Jeju tells the wonderful world he
experienced while merging in the stone...

...



... Bo tells how the Plant of Eternity was given to him by a gentle hand of lava!...

...



Morning has come, and so has the time to say goodbye to Halla and to head back to the "Kingdom of the Dragons.



Word travels fast, and dragons flock to the palace to witness the return of those who first defied a god and then became his guests.



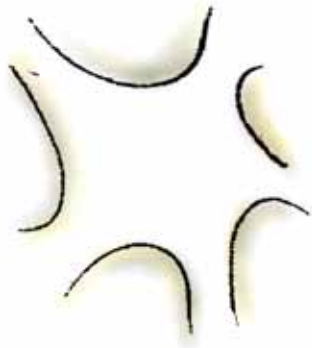
All rejoice at the sight of their king, queen
and prince together for the first time.



The moment comes for Jeju to let
his mother and father reunite...



...and Jeju feels like
the adventure is just beginning...



...hop! Here he goes again!

The end