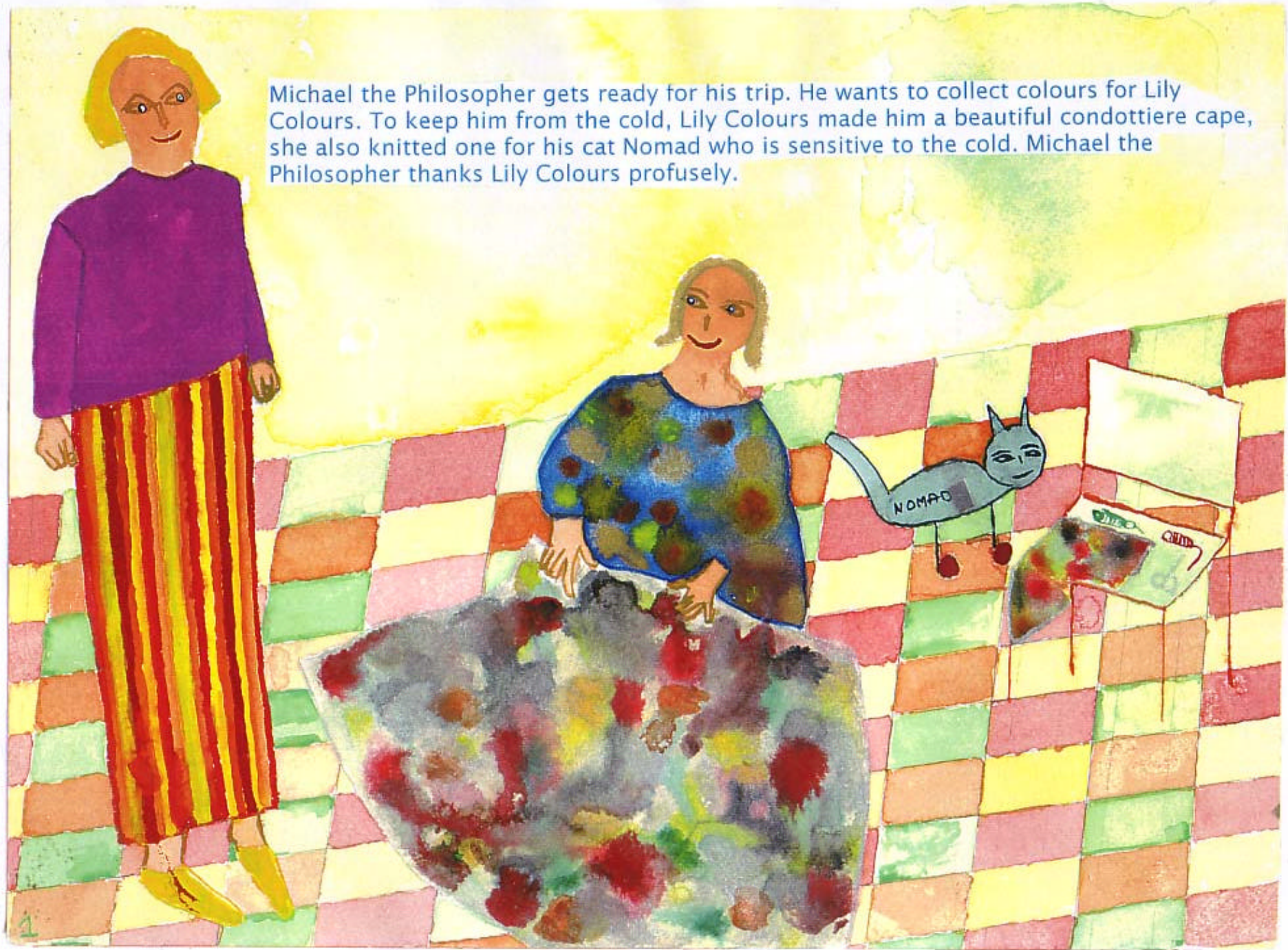


Michael the Philosopher gets ready for his trip. He wants to collect colours for Lily Colours. To keep him from the cold, Lily Colours made him a beautiful condottiere cape, she also knitted one for his cat Nomad who is sensitive to the cold. Michael the Philosopher thanks Lily Colours profusely.

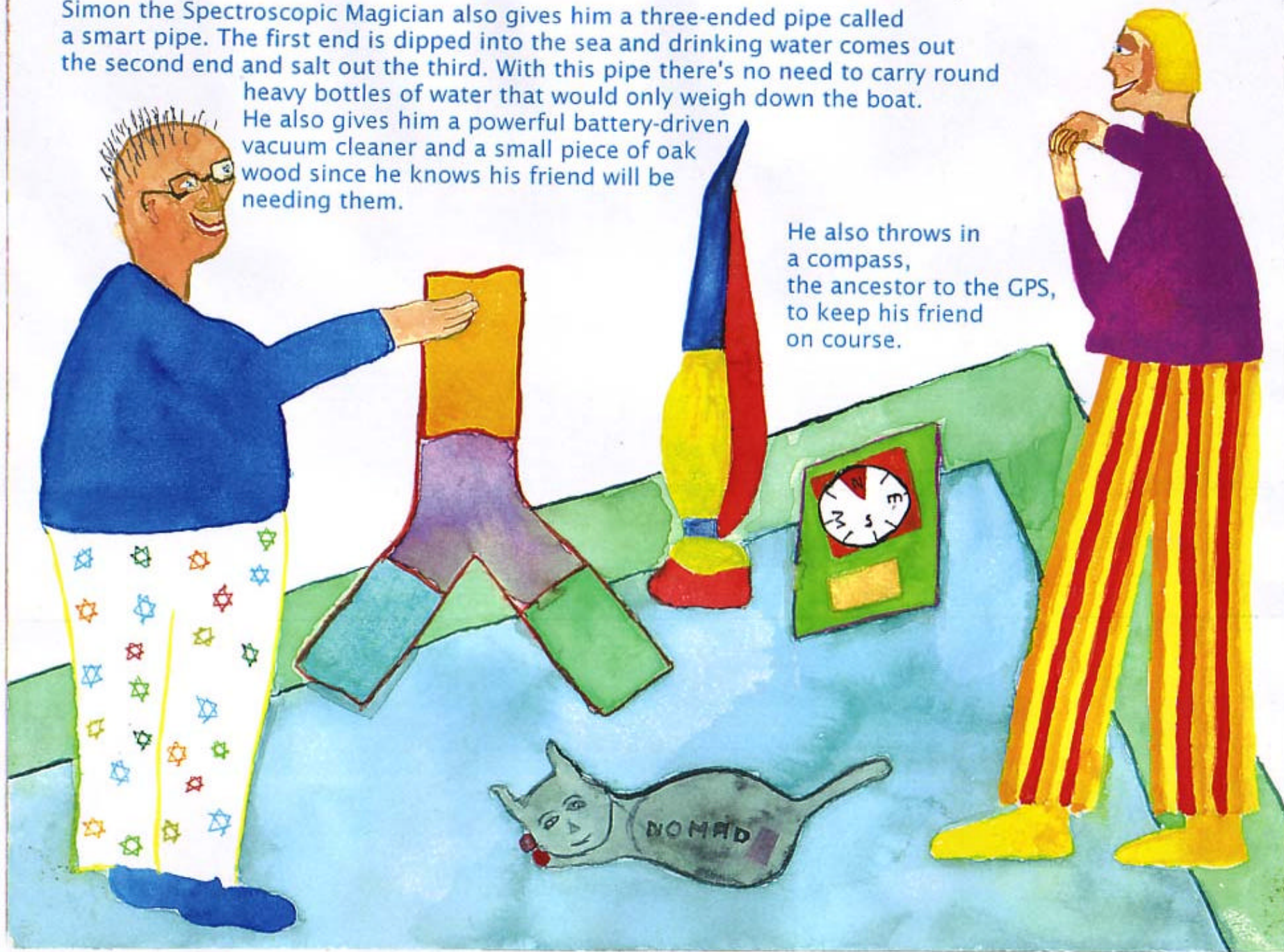


Michael the Philosopher then takes his capes to his friend Simon the Spectroscopic Magician. Simon the Spectroscopic Magician rubs magic transparent sleeping ray cream into the capes. When you wear one of these capes and you say the word "rays" the person attacking you goes into a deep sleep for 40 days.



Simon the Spectroscopic Magician also gives him a three-ended pipe called a smart pipe. The first end is dipped into the sea and drinking water comes out the second end and salt out the third. With this pipe there's no need to carry round heavy bottles of water that would only weigh down the boat. He also gives him a powerful battery-driven vacuum cleaner and a small piece of oak wood since he knows his friend will be needing them.

He also throws in a compass, the ancestor to the GPS, to keep his friend on course.



The big day has arrived: Michael the Philosopher and Nomad fold up their yurt, this half-house half-tent they take everywhere they go. They also take a case to store the colours they would find on their trip. Afterwards they put on fine pairs of socks and shoes since they will be walking a great deal.





Then they say farewell to all their friends
and head off to visit different countries.

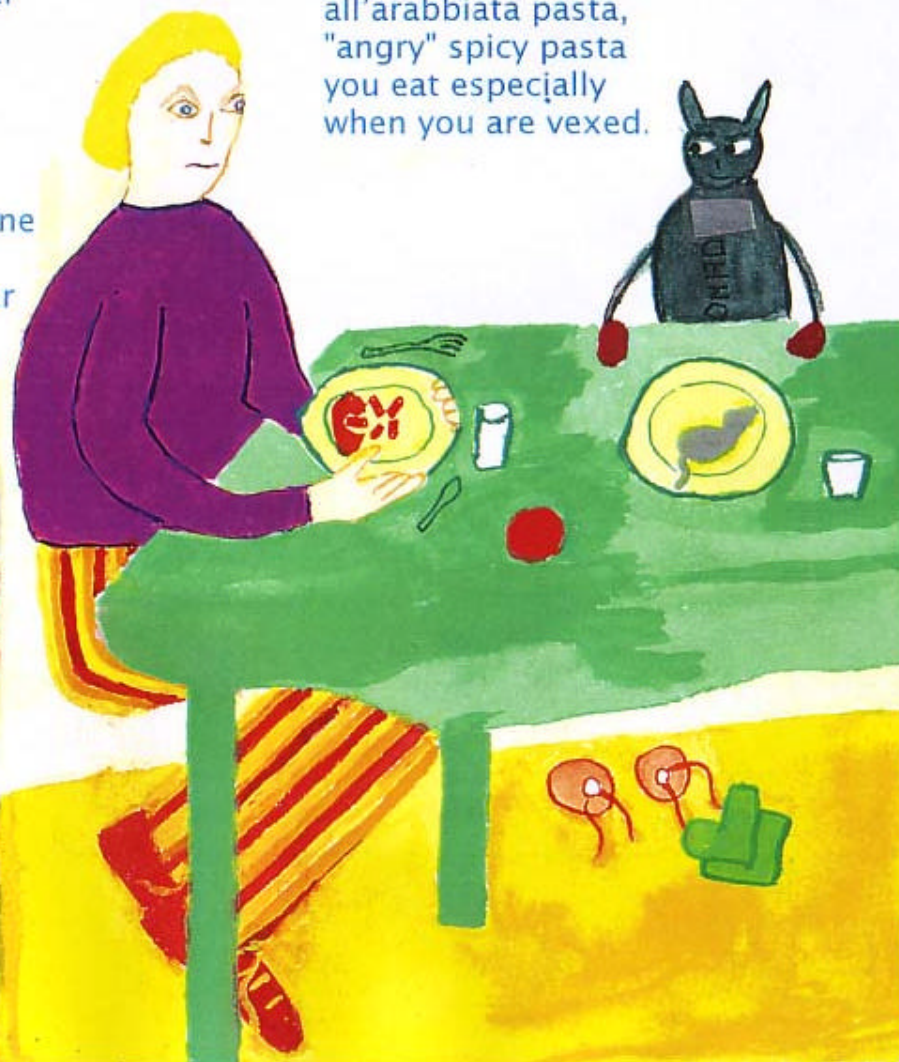
First they arrive
in the north
of Pasta Country.



Michael the Philosopher
and Nomad walk up
to a volcano that
had been extinct
for many many years,
Mount Amiata.
They look for a red stone
called cinnabar.
Michael the Philosopher
is a little disappointed
because he only found
one small stone.



But Lily Colours uses
a lot of cinnabar red
to dye the fabric of Michael
Philosopher's trousers.
He is even a little angry
so that night he eats
all'arabbiata pasta,
"angry" spicy pasta
you eat especially
when you are vexed.

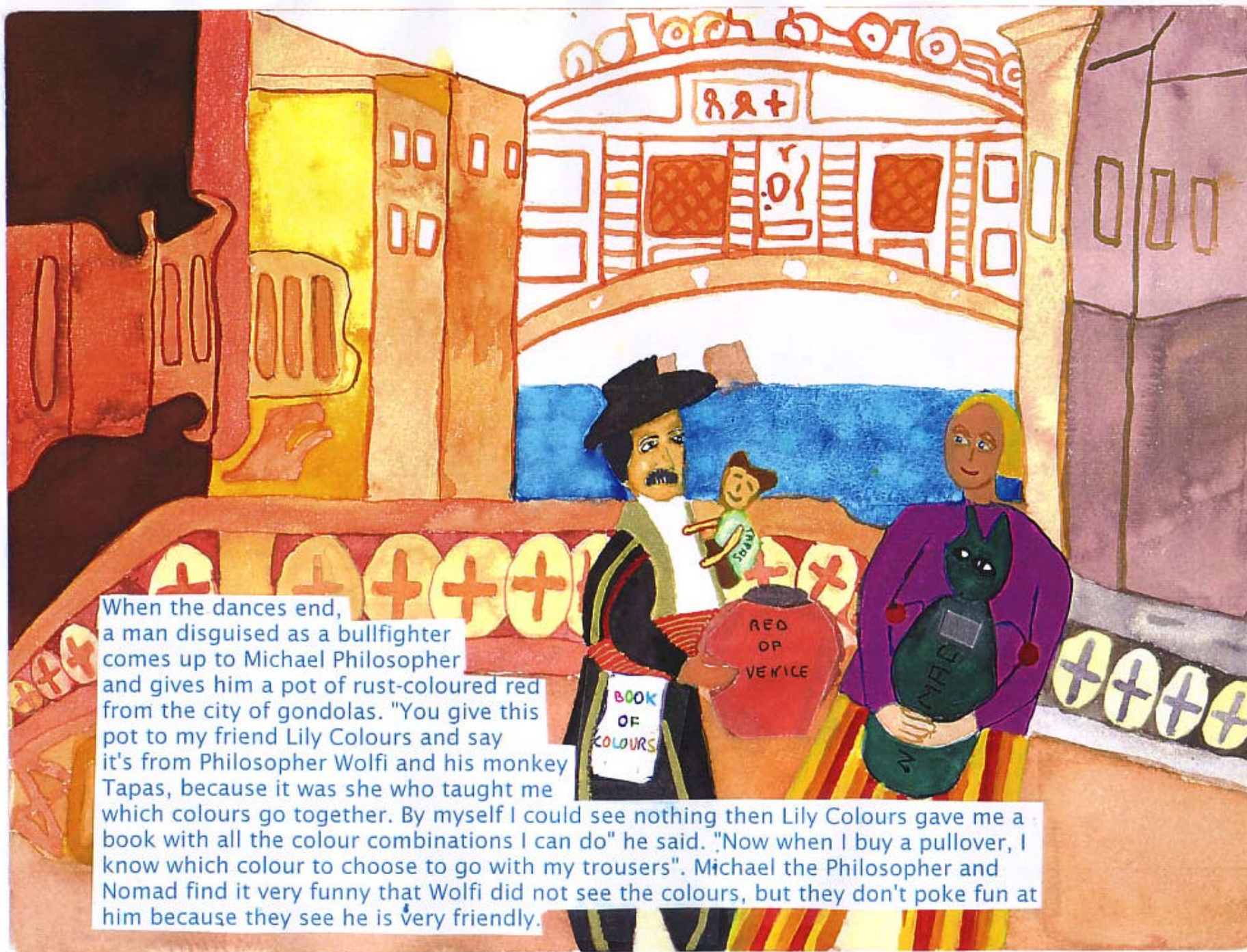




Then they go to the city of lovers called Romeo and Juliet because there you can find a strange green coloured soil. Afterwards, they start off again for the city of gondolas. Nomad is not in a very good mood. He knows that most streets in this city are canals and is very scared of water. He is all the more worried since he knows that after one night in the city of gondolas they will continue their trip by boat. He wouldn't mind staying on land but is too fond of Michael the Philosopher to let him travel alone.

But what a surprise they get when they arrive in the city of gondolas. Everybody is disguised and celebrating. A huge mouse lifts up Nomad and makes him dance, Nomad is a little embarrassed and looks to see if any other cat is watching. There is one but she is too busy dancing with a Pierrot to notice anything. As for Michael he invites Colombine to dance since she has a very colourful dress and that reminds him of Lily Colours.





When the dances end, a man disguised as a bullfighter comes up to Michael Philosopher and gives him a pot of rust-coloured red from the city of gondolas. "You give this pot to my friend Lily Colours and say it's from Philosopher Wolfi and his monkey Tapas, because it was she who taught me which colours go together. By myself I could see nothing then Lily Colours gave me a book with all the colour combinations I can do" he said. "Now when I buy a pullover, I know which colour to choose to go with my trousers". Michael the Philosopher and Nomad find it very funny that Wolfi did not see the colours, but they don't poke fun at him because they see he is very friendly.

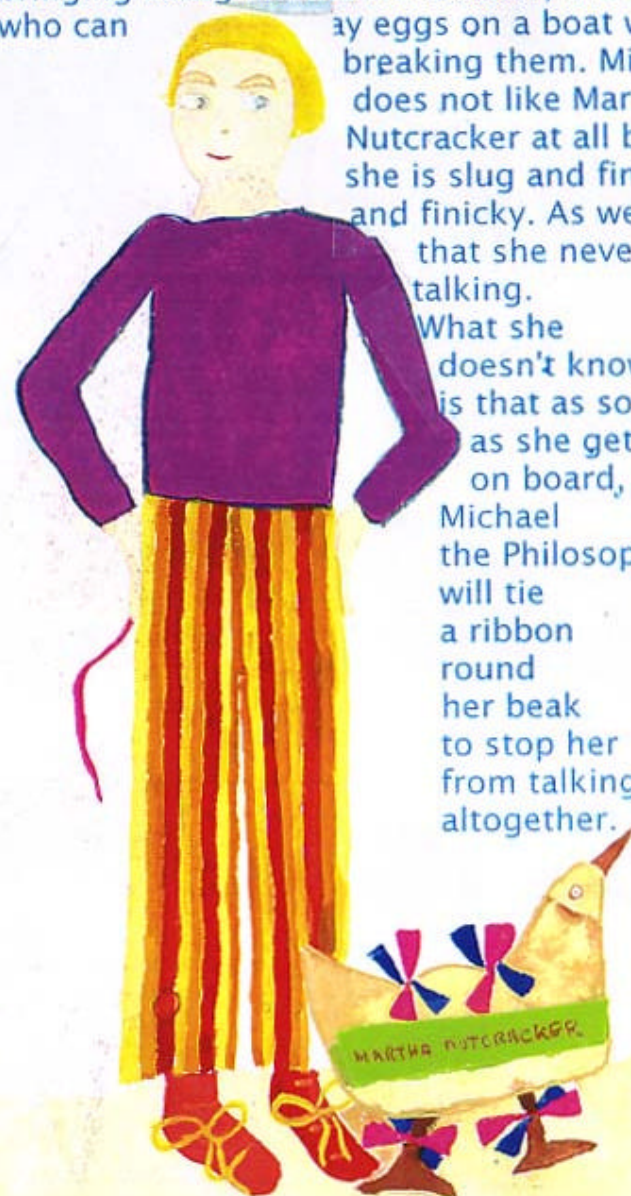
A boat awaits them in the port of the city of gondolas; it is called "The Lily Colours". Since the crossing is going to be long, Michael The Philosopher takes food in powder form that lasts a very long time. It's what we call freeze-dried food. You have to put back water into the powder when you want to eat it and it's not as good as the food you get on land. He also takes a huge box of sauerkraut and a box of lettuces to grow to provide much-needed vitamins.



Michael loves fresh eggs so he resigns himself to bringing along Martha Nutcracker, the only hen who can

lay eggs on a boat without breaking them. Michael does not like Martha Nutcracker at all because she is slug and finicky, and finicky. As well as that she never stops talking.

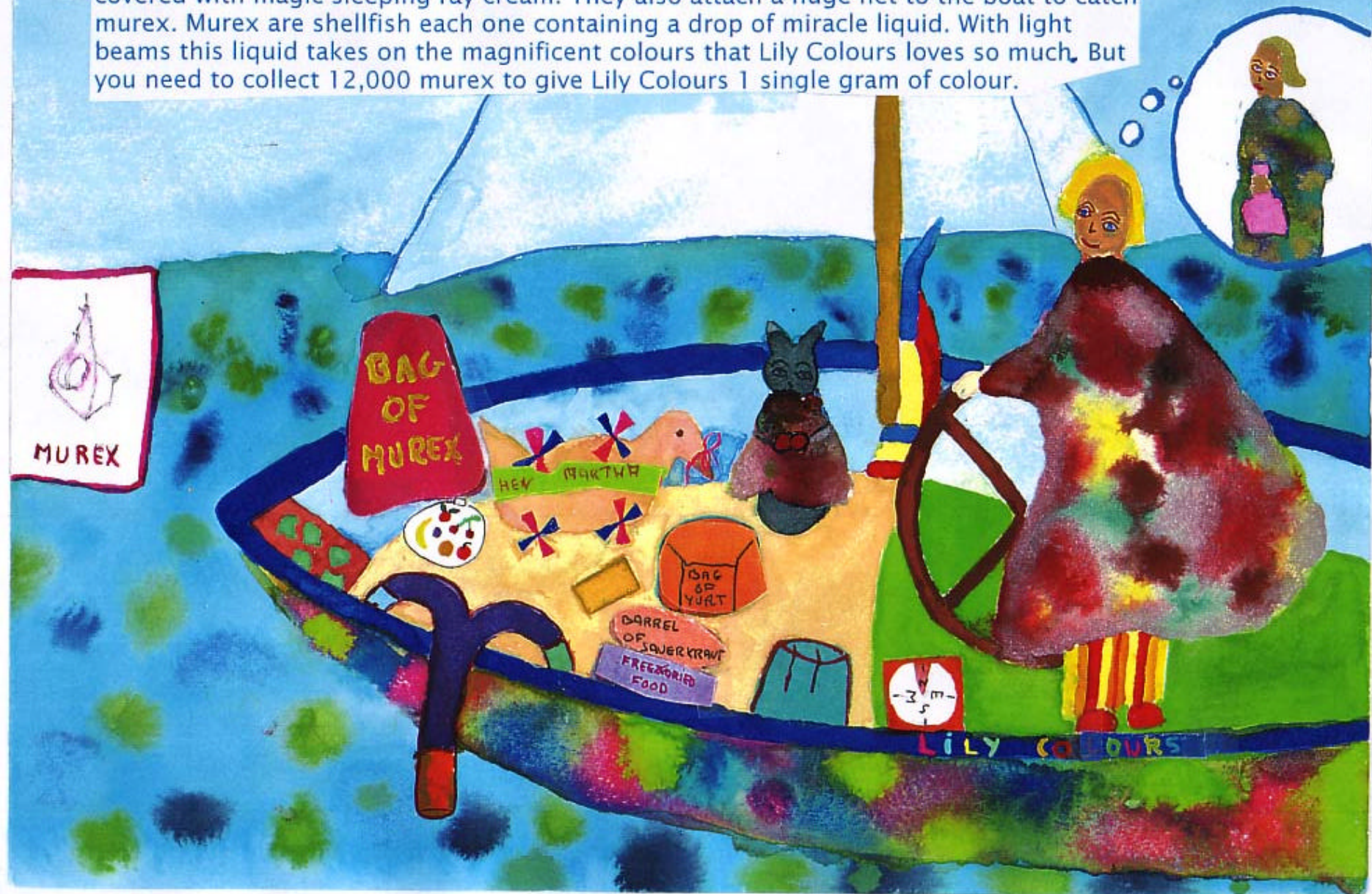
What she doesn't know is that as soon as she gets on board, Michael the Philosopher will tie a ribbon round her beak to stop her from talking altogether.

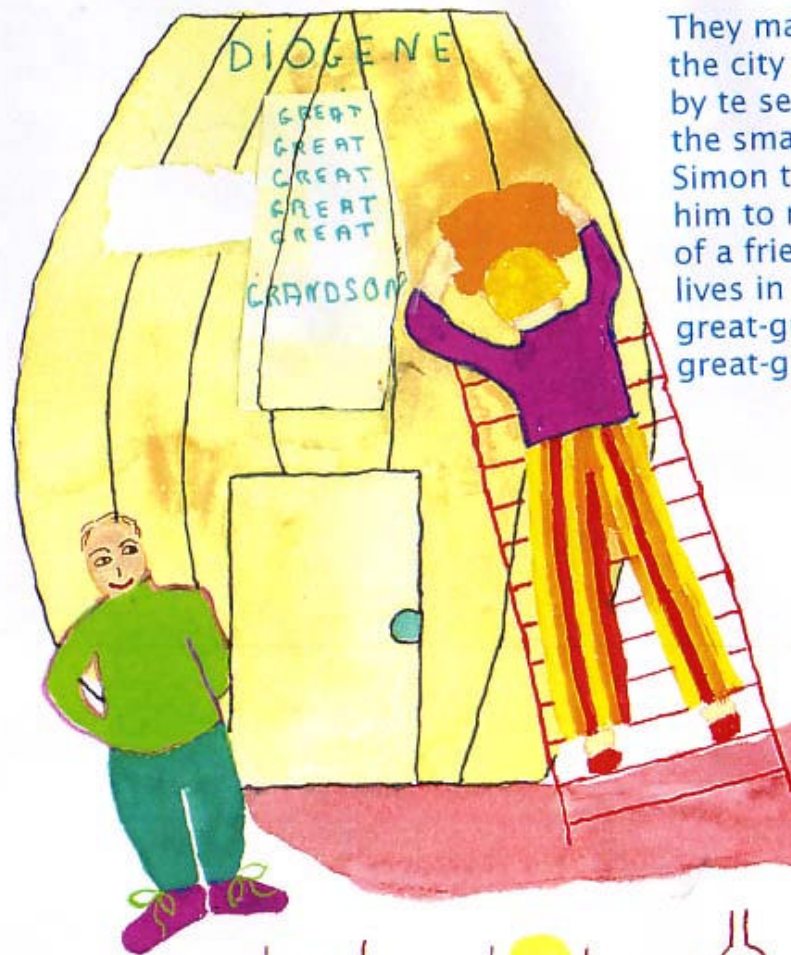


Before they leave, Wolfi and Tapas come to say goodbye and give them a bag of fruit. At the fruit store, Wolfi used his book to make sure he chose fruit with matching colours. Michael the Philosopher and Nomad thank him warmly.

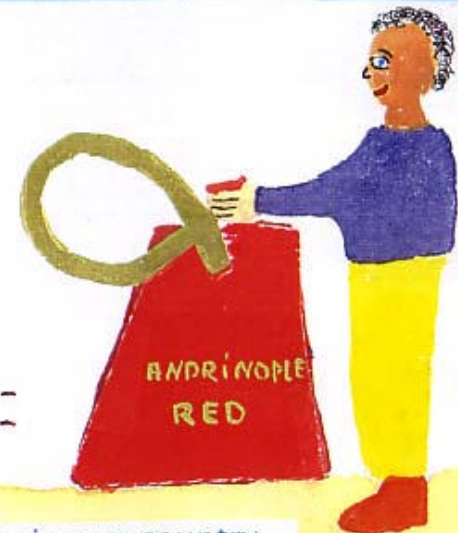


Michael and Nomad get into their boat, Nomad trembles a little because like all cats he's not very fond of water. To put him at ease they both put on their condottiere capes covered with magic sleeping ray cream. They also attach a huge net to the boat to catch murex. Murex are shellfish each one containing a drop of miracle liquid. With light beams this liquid takes on the magnificent colours that Lily Colours loves so much. But you need to collect 12,000 murex to give Lily Colours 1 single gram of colour.

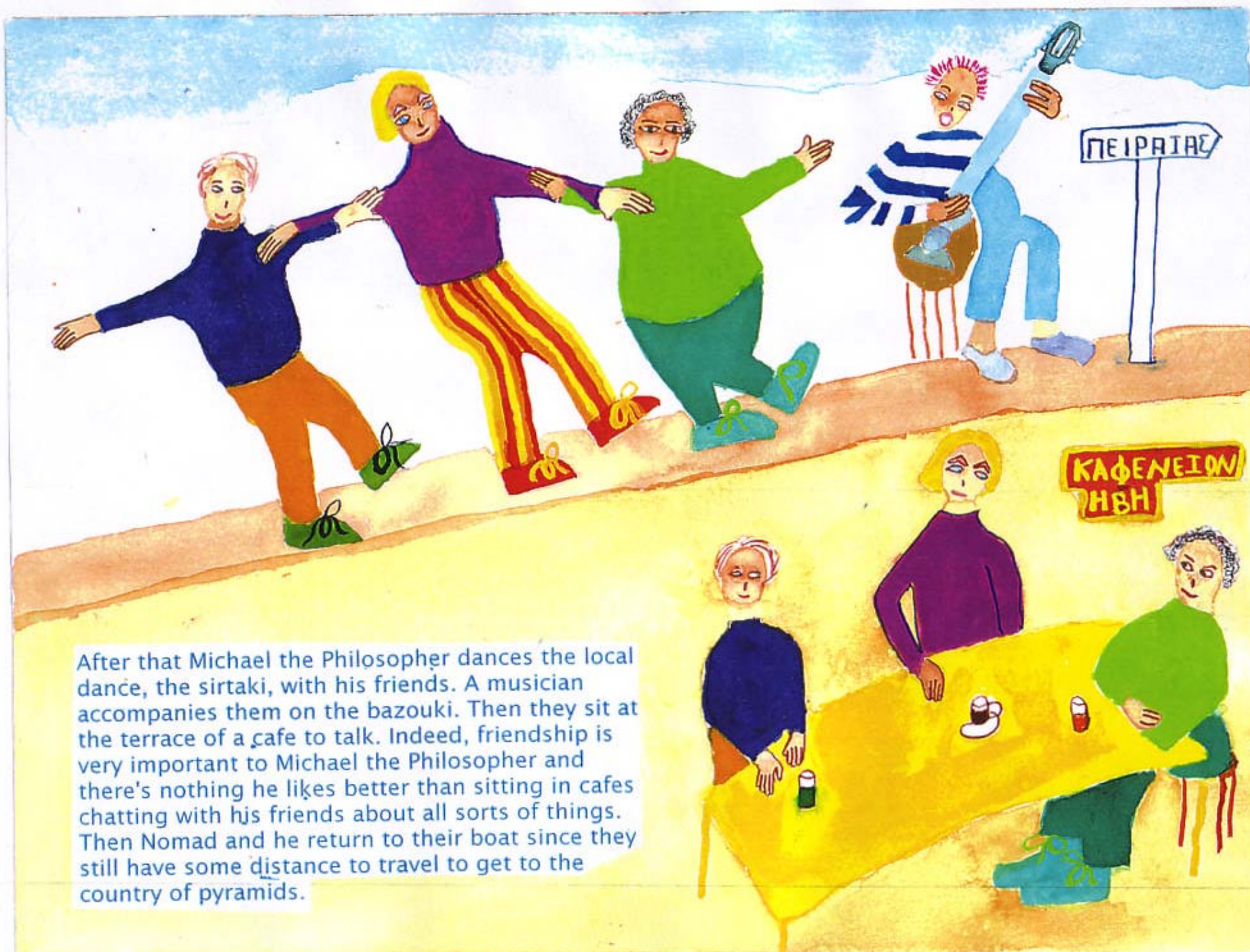





They make a first stop in the city of Philosophers by the sea, then he uses the small piece of wood Simon the Magician gave him to repair the house of a friend of his who lives in a vat, Diogene great-great-great-great great-grandson.



The Philosophers give him a present of a superb colour they make in their own country called Andrinople red to give to Lily Colours. Michael the Philosopher still finds it strange that this magnificent red colour comes from a mixture of lead, old grease, animal pee, poo and blood.



After that Michael the Philosopher dances the local dance, the sirtaki, with his friends. A musician accompanies them on the bazouki. Then they sit at the terrace of a cafe to talk. Indeed, friendship is very important to Michael the Philosopher and there's nothing he likes better than sitting in cafes chatting with his friends about all sorts of things. Then Nomad and he return to their boat since they still have some distance to travel to get to the country of pyramids.



When they start out of the sea
is quite calme but suddenly
the boat is surrounded
by bubonic whales.

As far as he could
Michael stands up,
turns round and cries out
"beams" and all the whales
fall asleep and let go of the
boat. But there is another
deadly danger: the whales
are full of water fleas,
the outchs, that bite you
and give you a very serious
disease called the bubonic
water plague. Luckily
the condottiere capes put
the fleas to sleep as well
and Nomad got them out of
the boat with his batterie
vacuum cleaner.

Now it is lunch time and Michael the Philosopher prepares Nomad's freeze-dried biscuits and he makes a sauerkraut lettuce omelette that he salts with the salt that comes out one end of the smart pipe. Afterwards, he gets Martha Nutcracker, the finicky hen, to promise not to talk before he unties her ribbon so she could nibble on her grains of corn.

Nomad was relieved, but just then he sees a huge octopus approaching. "Well if it isn't Gisela my sea-faring octopus philosopher friend", Michael the Philosopher cries out. "Don't worry Nomad. She is peaceful and won't harm you". Nomad reathes heavily but can't wait to get back to dry land again.



Michael chats with his friend Gisela the sea-faring octopus philosopher. She complains a lot about all the old fridges and washing machines people throw into the sea as if it were a rubbish dump. Michael the Philosopher tells her she was right. Together they admire all the different blue colours of the sea and Michael says he will take photos of these blues for Lily Colours.



They are in the middle of the ocean under a magnificent sun but Martha Nutcracker, the finicky hen, starts to ask for beauty creams for her feathers and new ribbons. Michael immediately puts back the ribbon round her beak. He thinks fondly of Gisela, the sea-faring octopus philosopher. When they were young, they studied in the same university. Michael the Philosopher lived in a building and Gisela in the garden pond.



Gisela was so touched when he offered her a hat with a ribbon matching her skin when she graduated as a sea-faring Philosopher. And she had thanked him so kindly! Martha Nutcracker the Hen never tanks him for the ribbons and she is always asking for new ones. Anyway, octopuses cannot lay eggs for omelettes and cannot live out of water, that's just the way things are !





Michael the Philosopher
did not buy all the colours
you find in the countries
he visited because he doesn't want
to overload the boat, but he knows
he will come back again.

Suddenly they see a beach with a statue
from the country of pyramids and they see
land from afar. Great, says Nomad, we've
arrived in the country of pyramids. Dry land
at last. In the country of pyramids cats have
been honoured since time immemorial.
He also knows that he will meet up again with
their funny friend, Mrs Rosette,
who lives in this country and
who will get them the blue
to make Lily Colours favourite
colour,
ultramarine blue.

