

#THE NEW MOON SERIES. VOL 1

# Tortoise and the Magic Drum

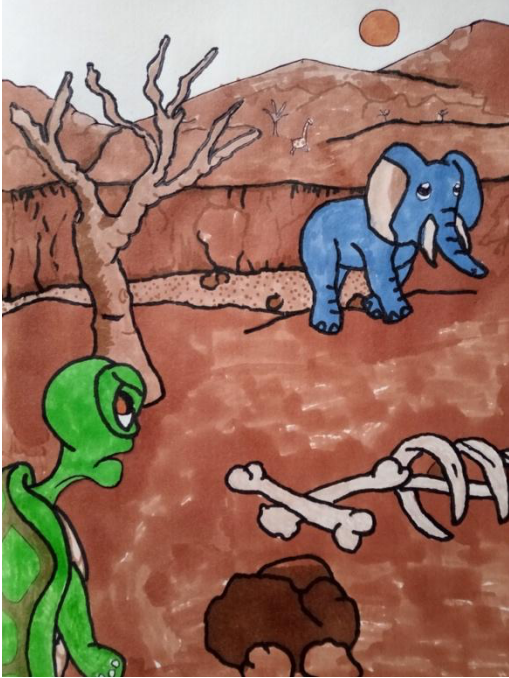
By Israel Okon

*Dedicated to my grandma.*

The moon was full and very bright.

The children gathered round their grandmother, in the front yard.

Grandma is about to tell them a story.



Once upon a time there was a great famine in the animal kingdom.

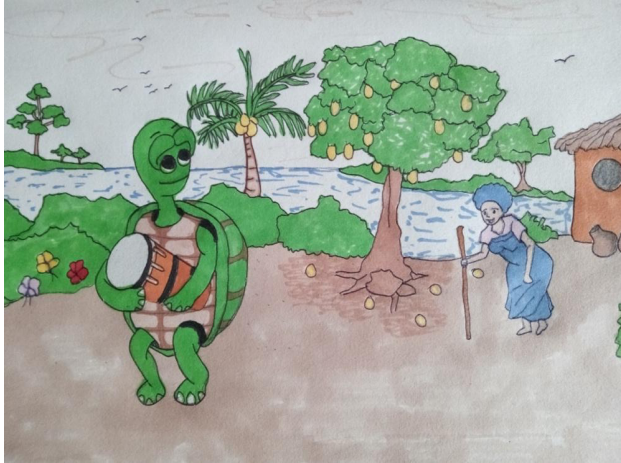
It was so great a famine that some animals began to die.



One day, the tortoise wandered far away in search of food.

After searching for a while, he luckily found a coconut tree.

It had only three fruits!



The tortoise plucked two of the fruits and found nothing inside.

He then plucked the last fruit, but it rolled into a hole.

"I can't afford to lose this one," the tortoise cried.

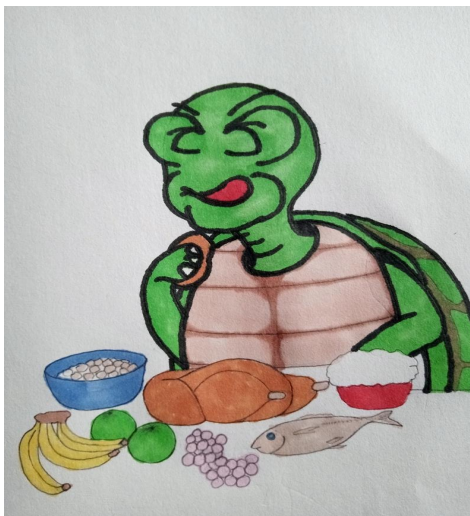
So, he crawled down the hole.

Suddenly, the tortoise found himself in another kingdom.

Everyone in this kingdom looks happy.

The tortoise asked an old woman if she found his fruit.

"Yes", she said. "But in exchange, I will give you a drum."



The old woman instructed the tortoise to beat the drum once when he got home.

She promised the tortoise whatever food he desired would then appear.

The tortoise went home and did as instructed.

Different delicacies appeared and he ate them all.

He was very happy.

But, the tortoise didn't share the magic drum with the rest of the animals.



One day, the tortoise decided to beat the drum thrice.

He wanted more food to appear.

Instead, different insects appeared and began to sting him.



He ran out of his house shouting and calling, "Help, Help!"

No one helped the tortoise because they were angry with him.

## ***Epilogue***

Grandma ended the story and the children were so thrilled.

Grandma asked the children this one question, "My children, what lessons did you learn from the story?"