



The Legend of
Maxim
and the curse of
Probopolo



Monica Reifegerste
The Legend of Maxim and the Curse of Probopolo



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Library of Congress Control Number: 2014907625
ISBN: Softcover 978-1-5035-3324-0
Hardcover 978-1-5035-3323-3

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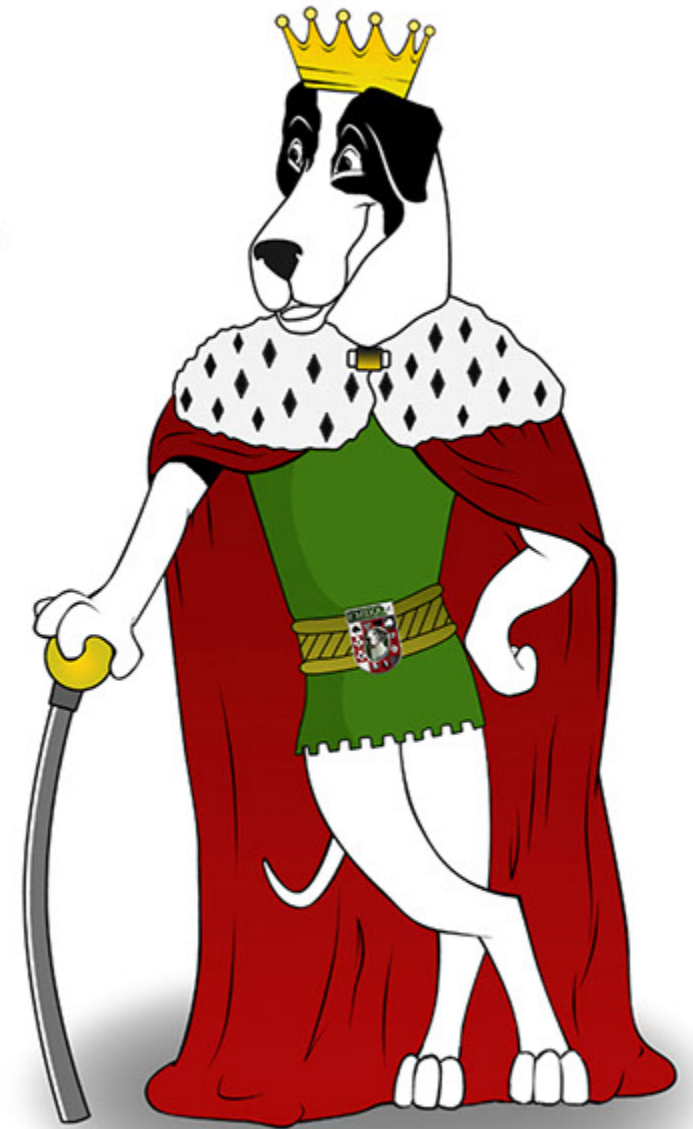
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Rev. date: 03/16/2015

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By Monica Reifegerste



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CHAPTER I – A PLACE NAMED DOGGERRLAND, THE BEGINNING...



Once upon a time quite a while ago,
there was a kingdom by the name of...



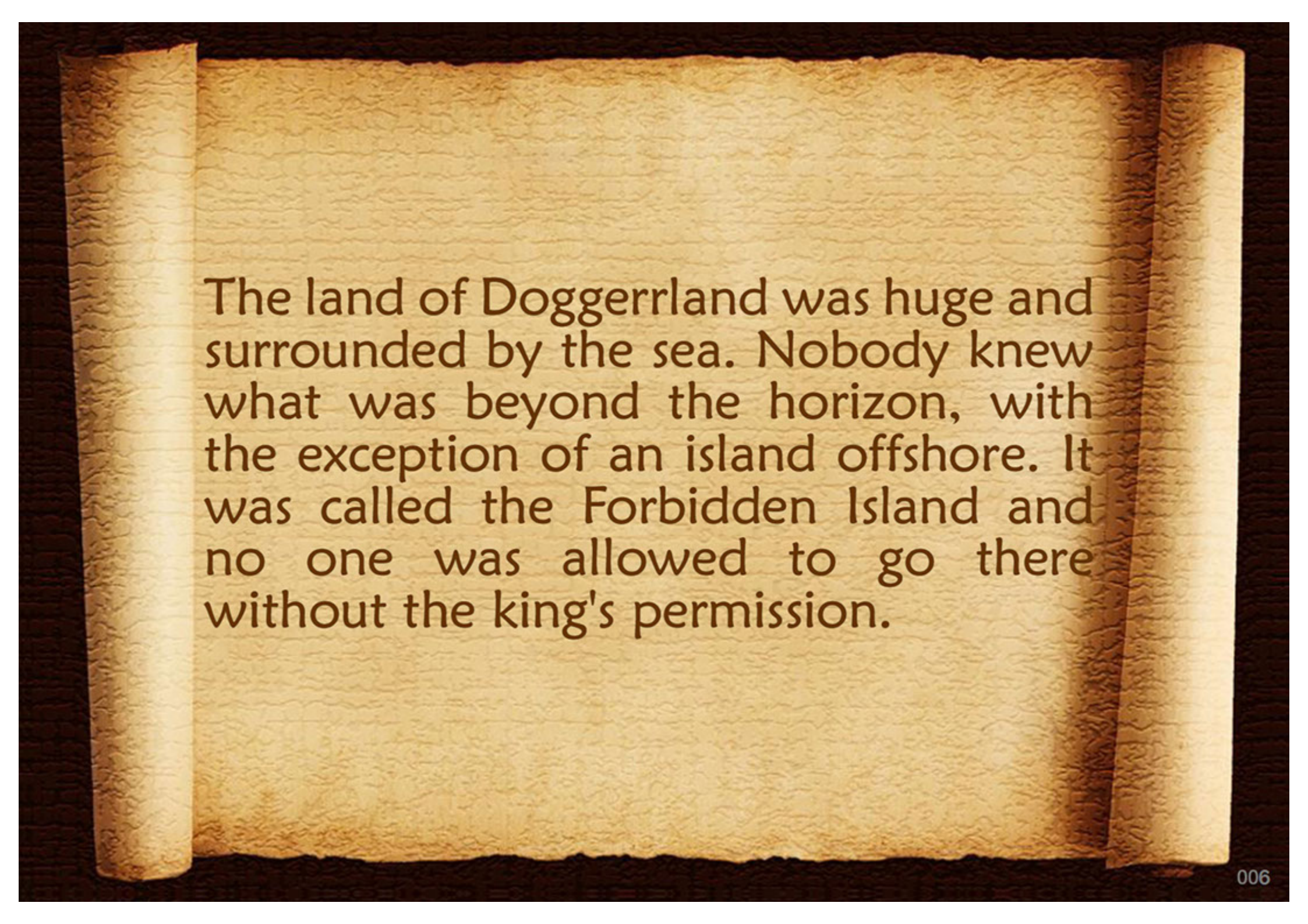
A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area. The text "Doggerland..." is written in a dark brown, serif font, centered on the parchment. The scroll is set against a dark background.

Doggerland...

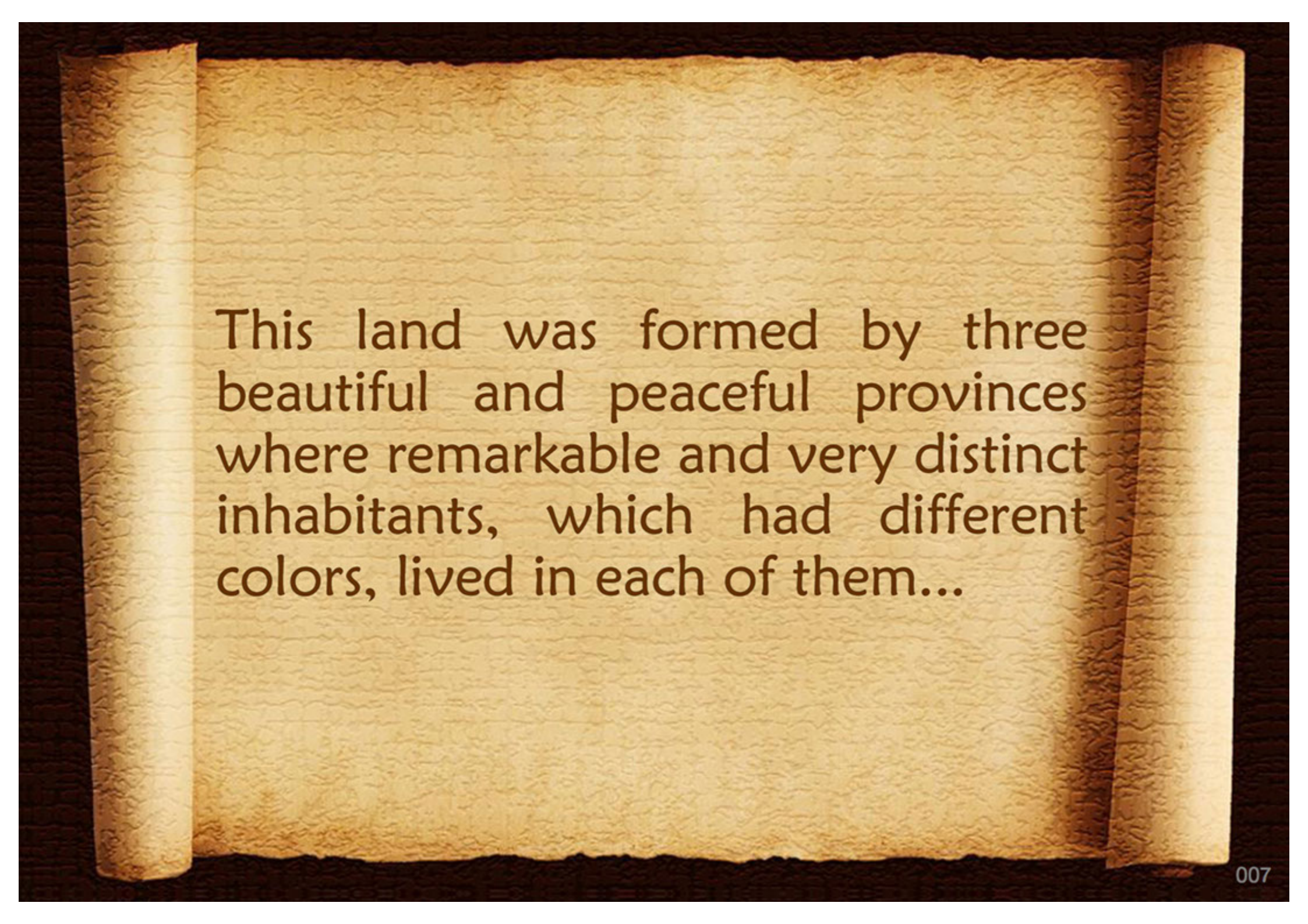
Doggerland

KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND



A scroll of aged, yellowed parchment with a textured surface, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is set against a dark background. The text is written in a simple, dark font.

The land of Doggerland was huge and surrounded by the sea. Nobody knew what was beyond the horizon, with the exception of an island offshore. It was called the Forbidden Island and no one was allowed to go there without the king's permission.

A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment with a textured surface, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is set against a dark background. The text is written in a simple, brown font.

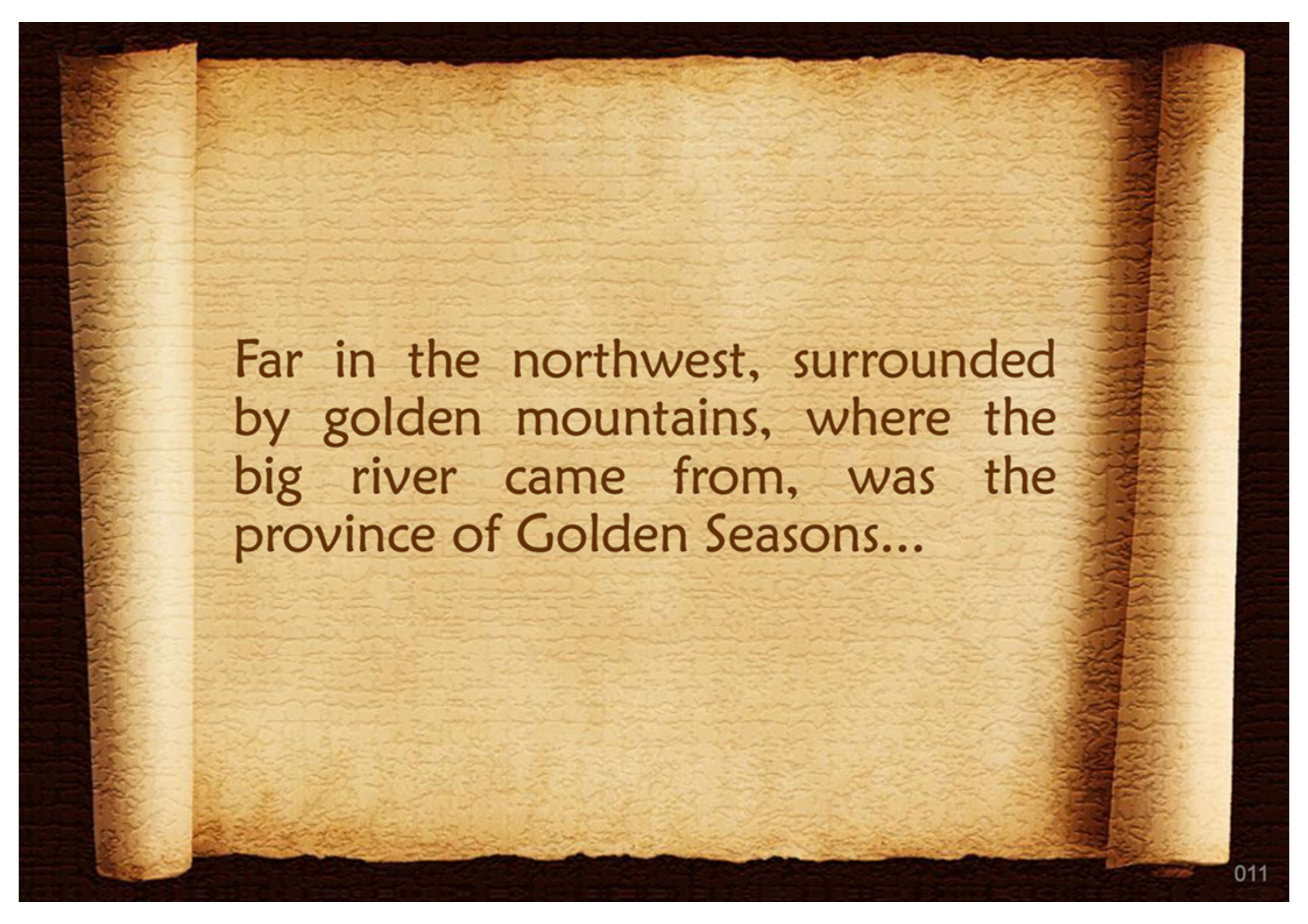
This land was formed by three beautiful and peaceful provinces where remarkable and very distinct inhabitants, which had different colors, lived in each of them...

An open scroll of aged, yellowed paper with a dark background. The paper has a textured, slightly wrinkled appearance and is unrolled in the center. The text is written in a simple, dark font across the middle of the scroll.

although, they would all have
something in common...

they were all Great Danes!



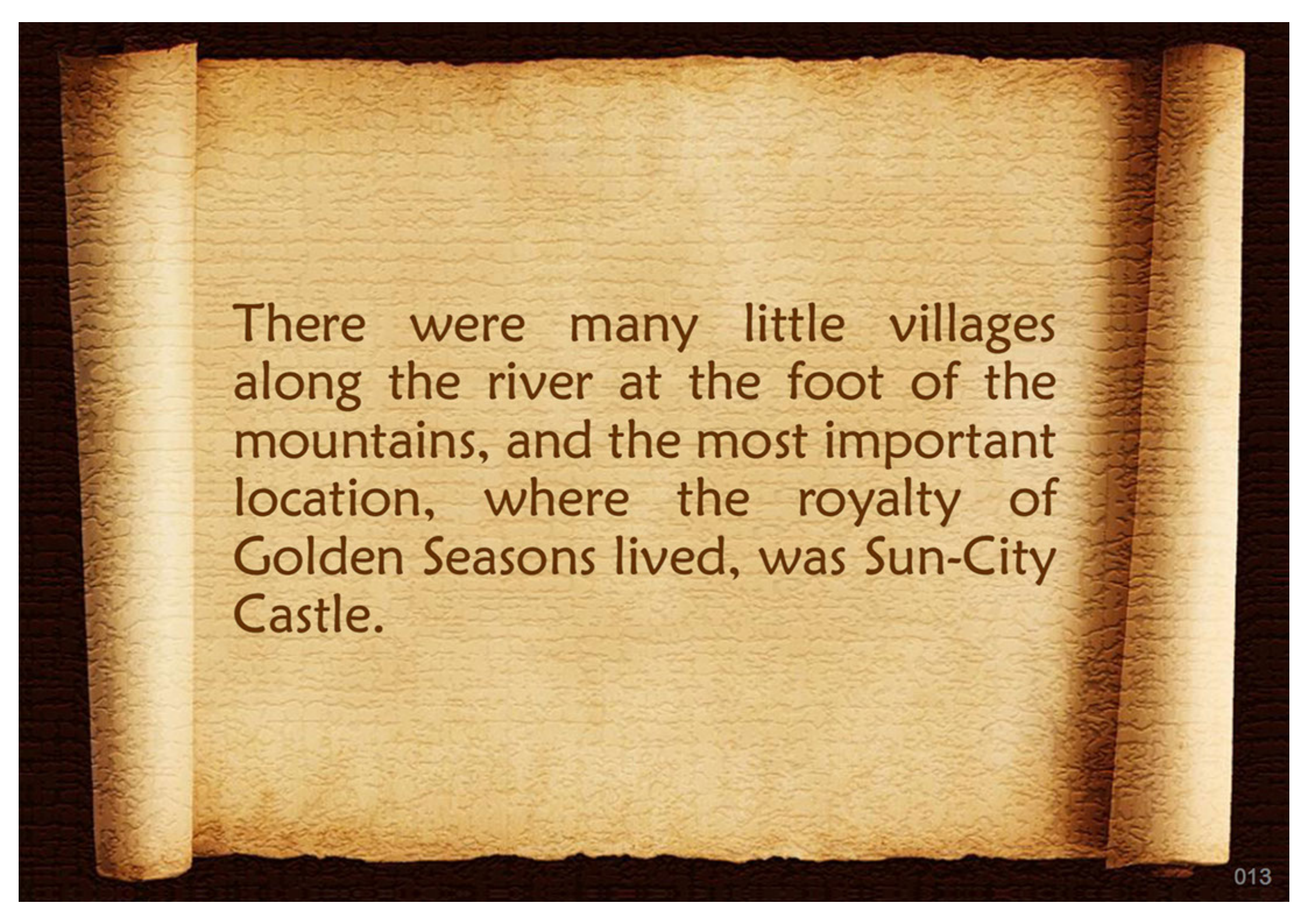
An open scroll of aged, yellowed paper with a dark background. The paper has a textured, slightly wrinkled appearance. The text is centered on the page.

Far in the northwest, surrounded by golden mountains, where the big river came from, was the province of Golden Seasons...

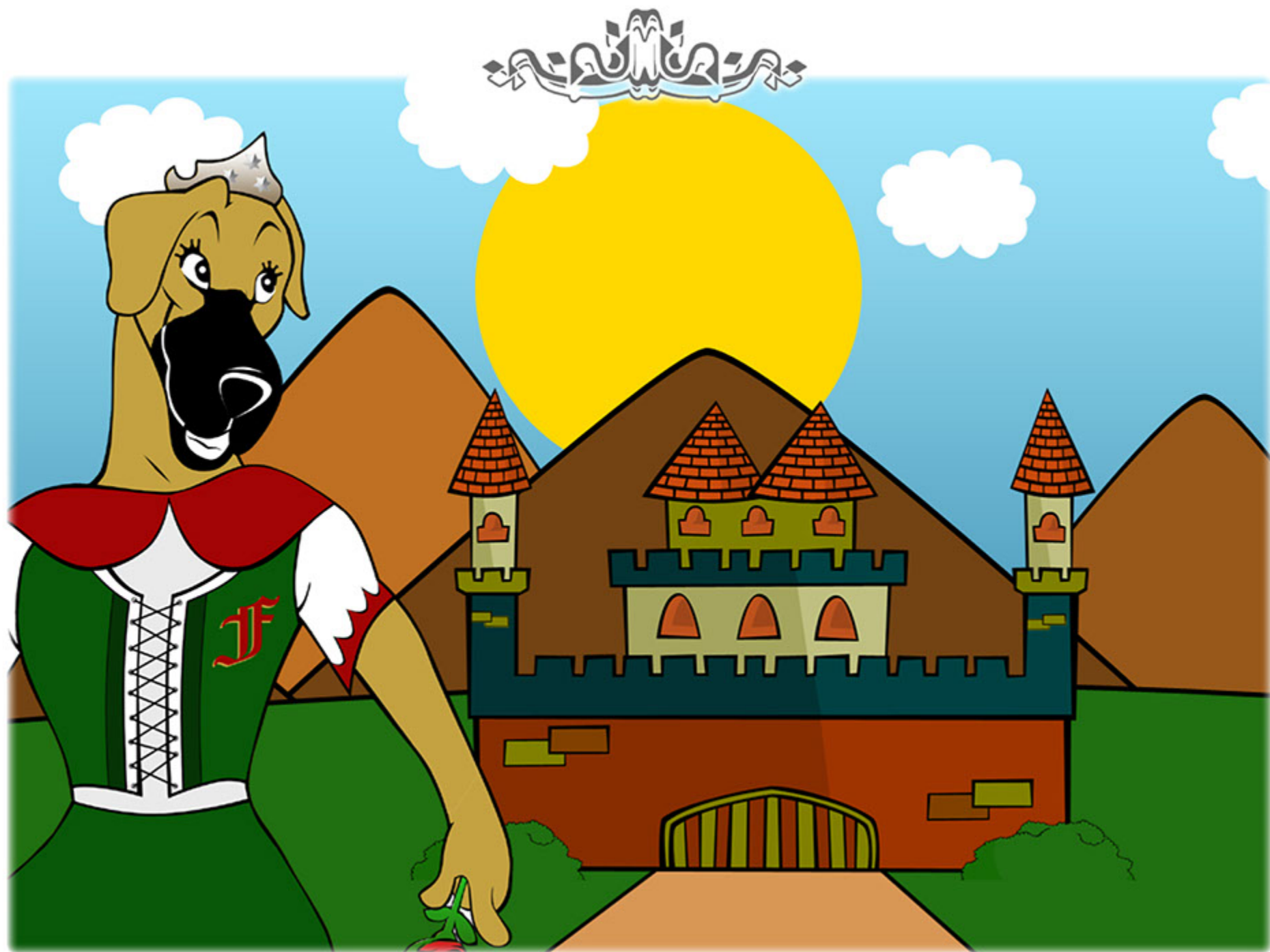
Doggerland

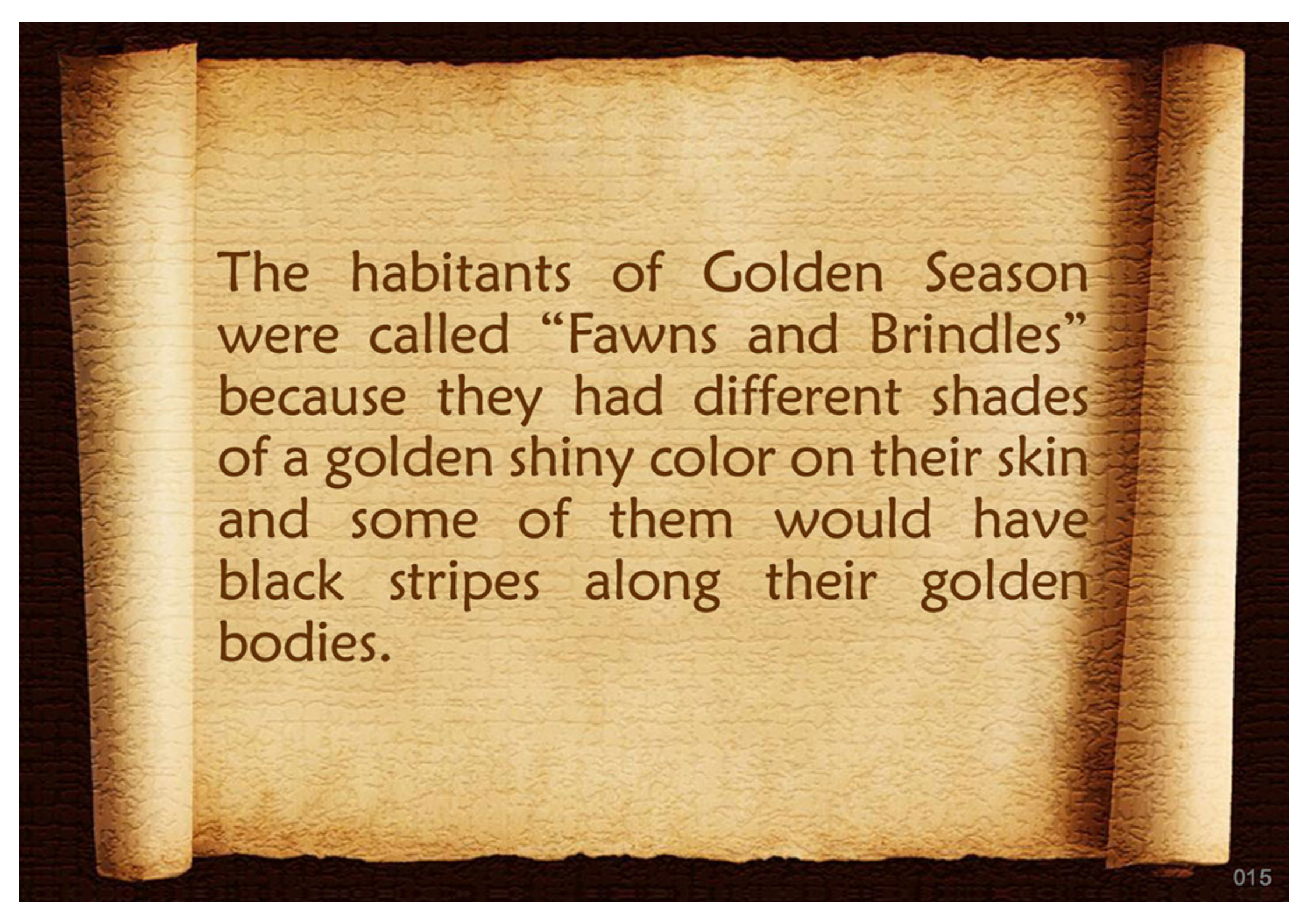
KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND



An open scroll with a textured, parchment-like surface. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing a large area of text. The edges of the scroll are rolled up, and the background is dark, making the light-colored scroll stand out.

There were many little villages along the river at the foot of the mountains, and the most important location, where the royalty of Golden Seasons lived, was Sun-City Castle.



A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, slightly wavy surface. The parchment is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the light-colored parchment stand out.

The habitants of Golden Season were called “Fawns and Brindles” because they had different shades of a golden shiny color on their skin and some of them would have black stripes along their golden bodies.

They were very proud of their color and they used to say that they inherited the joy of the sun on their skin and its warmth in their hearts...



At the east and southeast, where the Blue Lake lies, there was one of the most beautiful places of Doggerland, the province of Blue Valley.

Doggerland

KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND

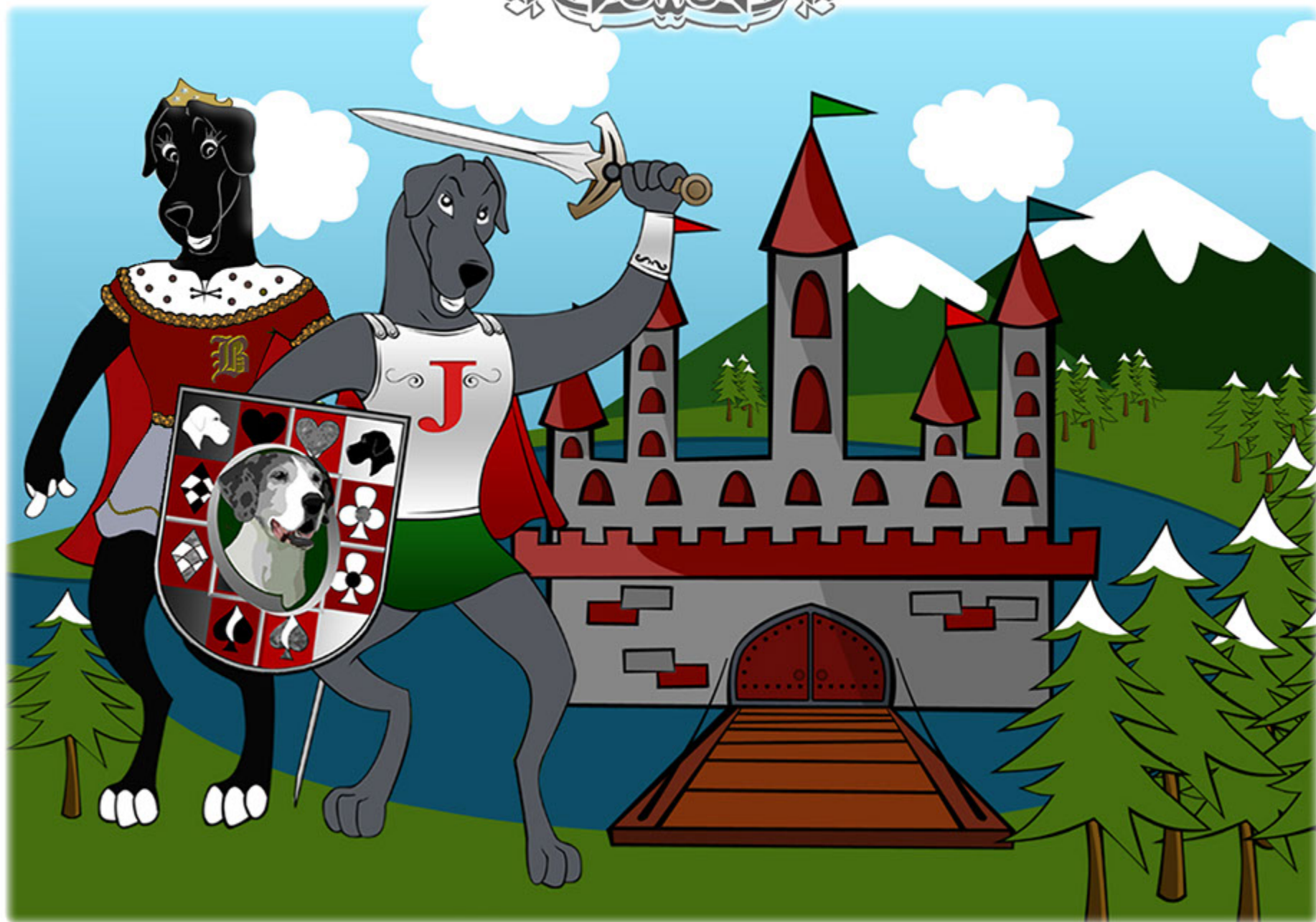


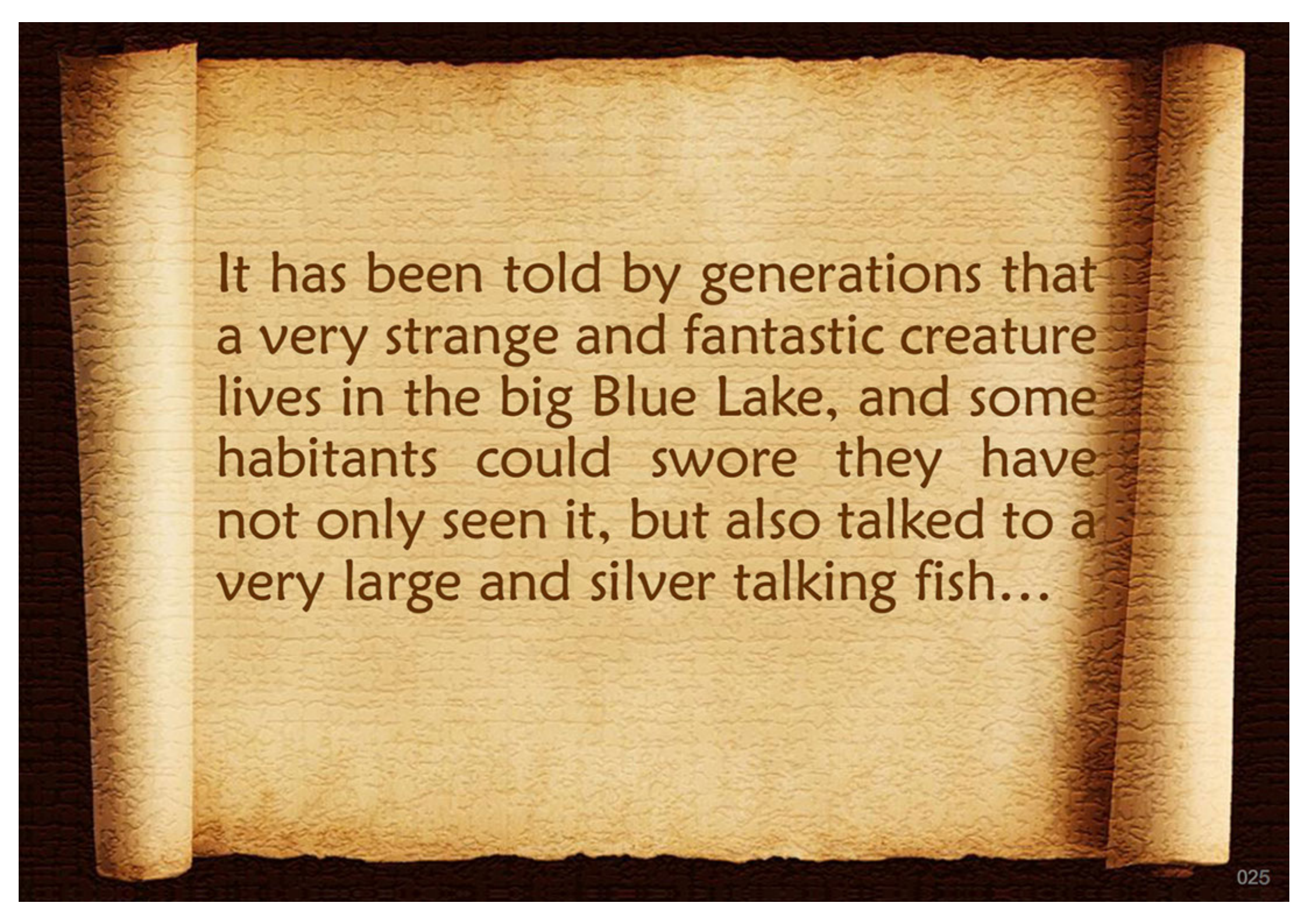
There were only a few villages around the valley further away from the lake, and there was a very impressive blue stone castle on the lake, with a huge drawbridge reaching the shore, where the royalty of Blue Valley Province lived.



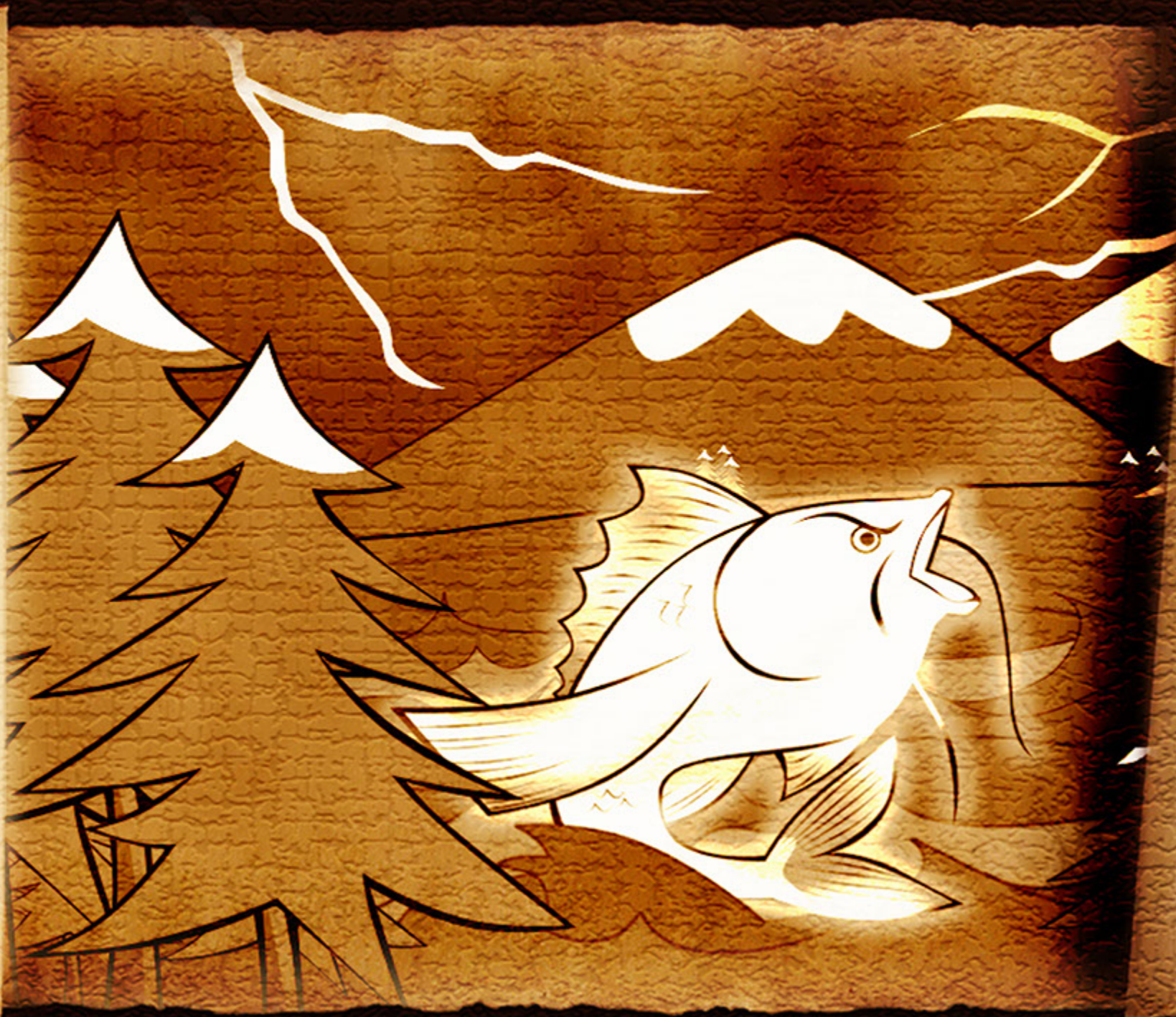
The citizens of Blue Valley Province had shiny blue or black fur and some of them would have white markings on their chest or on their feet. They used to say that the God of Life gave them the serenity of a moonlit night in their hearts and sincerity in their souls as profound as the depths of the sea.

It was also said that the white markings inherited by some of them came from an ancestor of Blue Valley, who once touched the water of the lake where the moon shadow was shining. It happened that some white of the moon, reflected on the water, splashed on his fingers and on his chest, and gave him those markings forever and ever, over his descendents.



An open scroll with a parchment-like texture, showing a central panel of text. The scroll is unrolled, with the edges of the pages visible on the left and right sides. The text is written in a dark brown, serif font. The background is dark, making the light-colored scroll stand out.

It has been told by generations that a very strange and fantastic creature lives in the big Blue Lake, and some habitants could swore they have not only seen it, but also talked to a very large and silver talking fish...



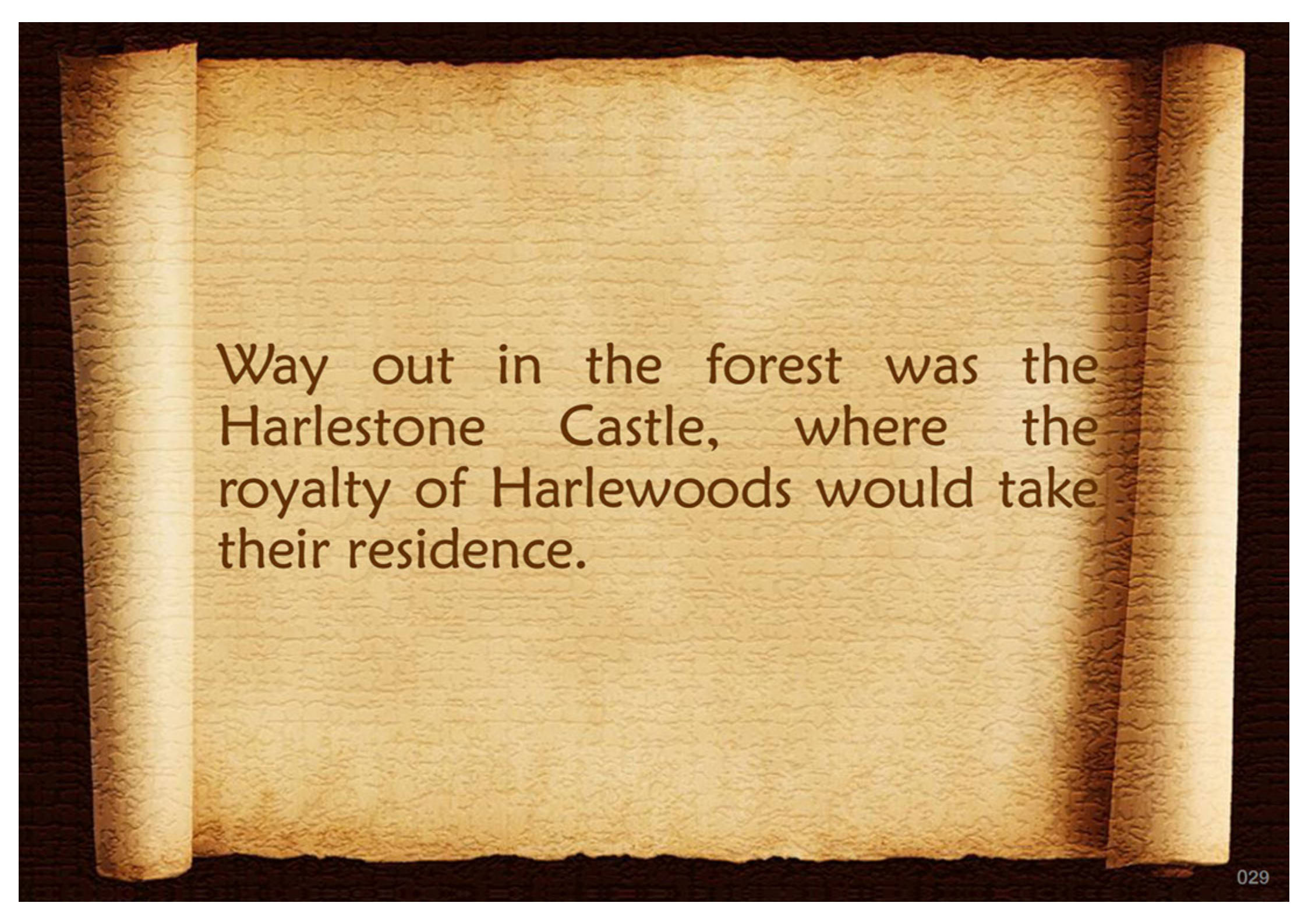
To the southwest was the province of Harlewoods, where a dense and huge forest was divided by a long road where many little villages were nearby.

All sorts of small and wild animals lived there; they were very friendly and were not afraid of the villagers.

Doggerland

KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND





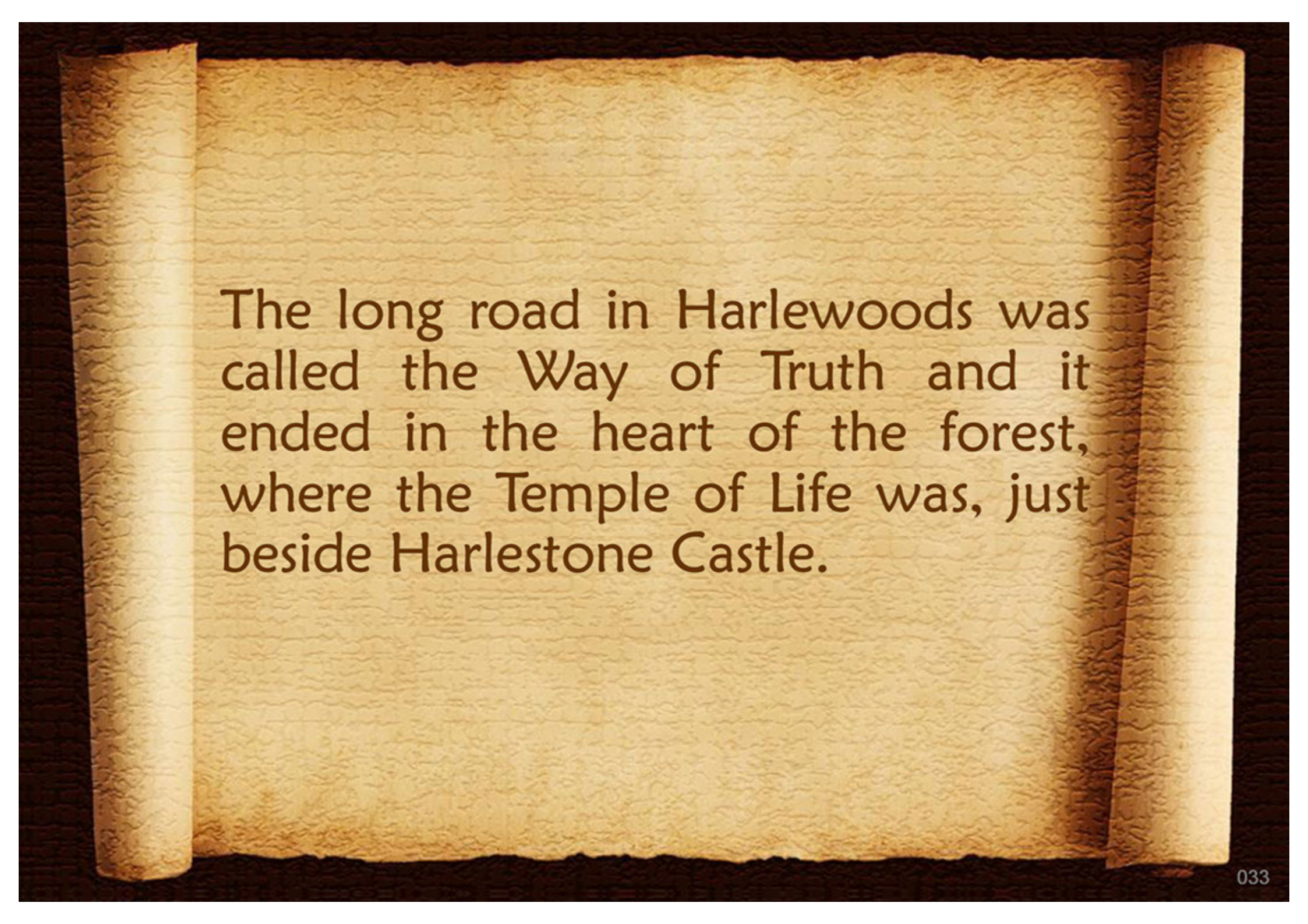
Way out in the forest was the Harlestone Castle, where the royalty of Harlewoods would take their residence.



The inhabitants of Harlewoods had different fur patterns with white, black and gray colors; while gray could have many different shades and darker speckles inside them.

The elders would say that the creativity and intelligence of God, expressed on a starry night, were printed on their skin and in their souls.



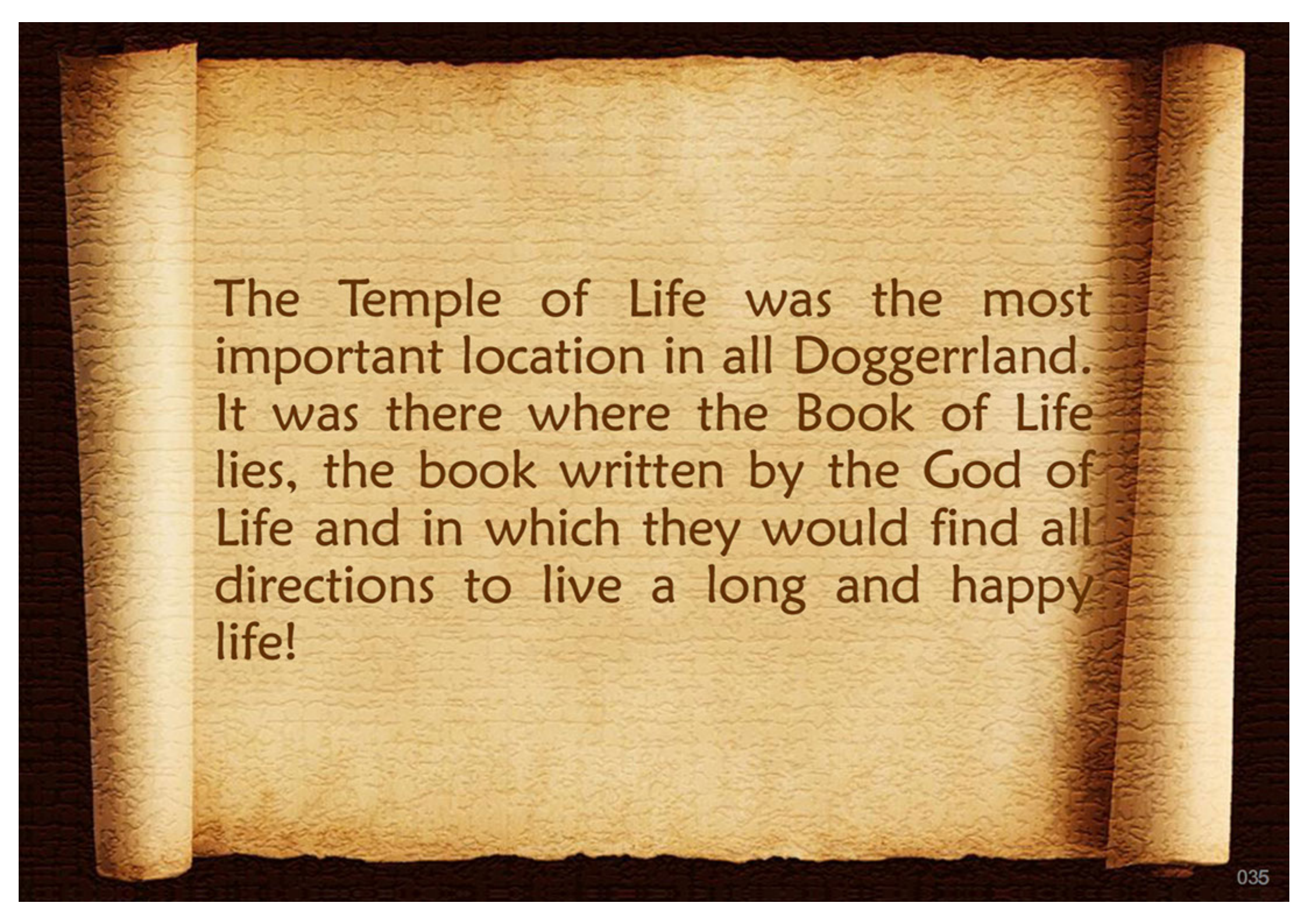
A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, slightly wavy surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central section of text. The parchment is a warm, yellowish-brown color, suggesting it is old. The text is written in a simple, dark brown font. The scroll is set against a dark, almost black background.

The long road in Harlewoods was called the Way of Truth and it ended in the heart of the forest, where the Temple of Life was, just beside Harlestone Castle.

Doggerland

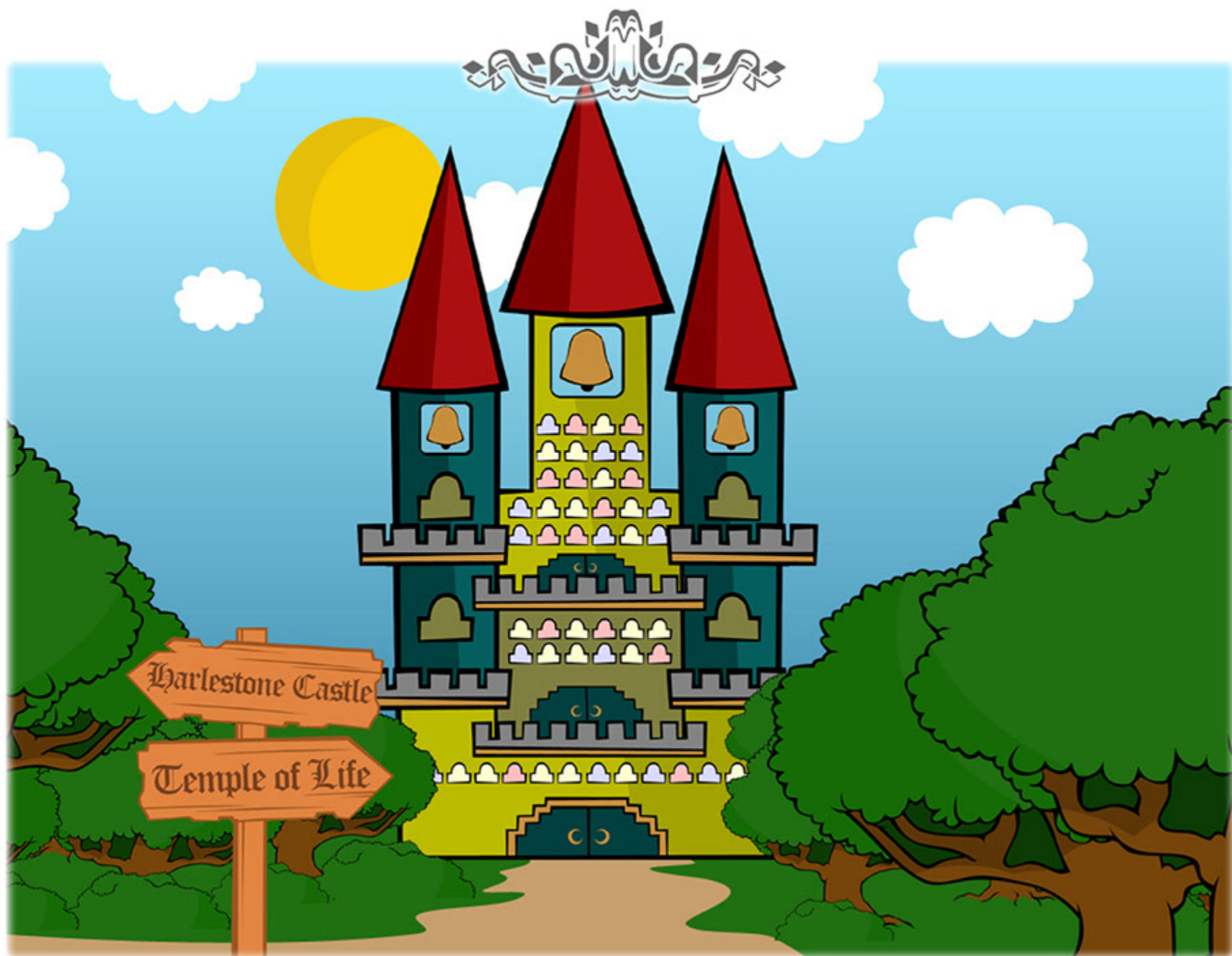
KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND



A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.

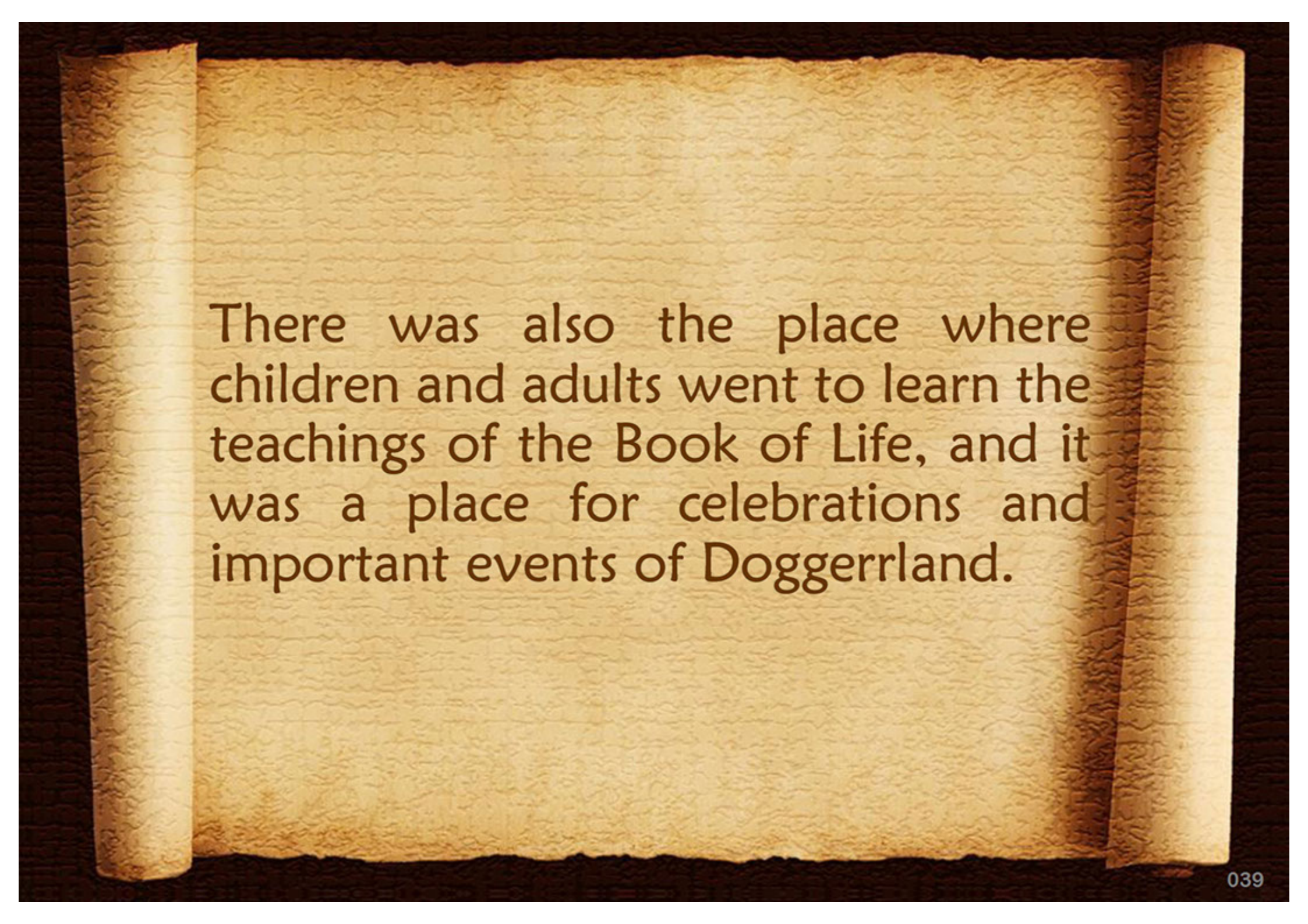
The Temple of Life was the most important location in all Doggerrland. It was there where the Book of Life lies, the book written by the God of Life and in which they would find all directions to live a long and happy life!

This temple had three floors: the first floor was for children, the second floor was given to the adults and the third floor was for the elders.

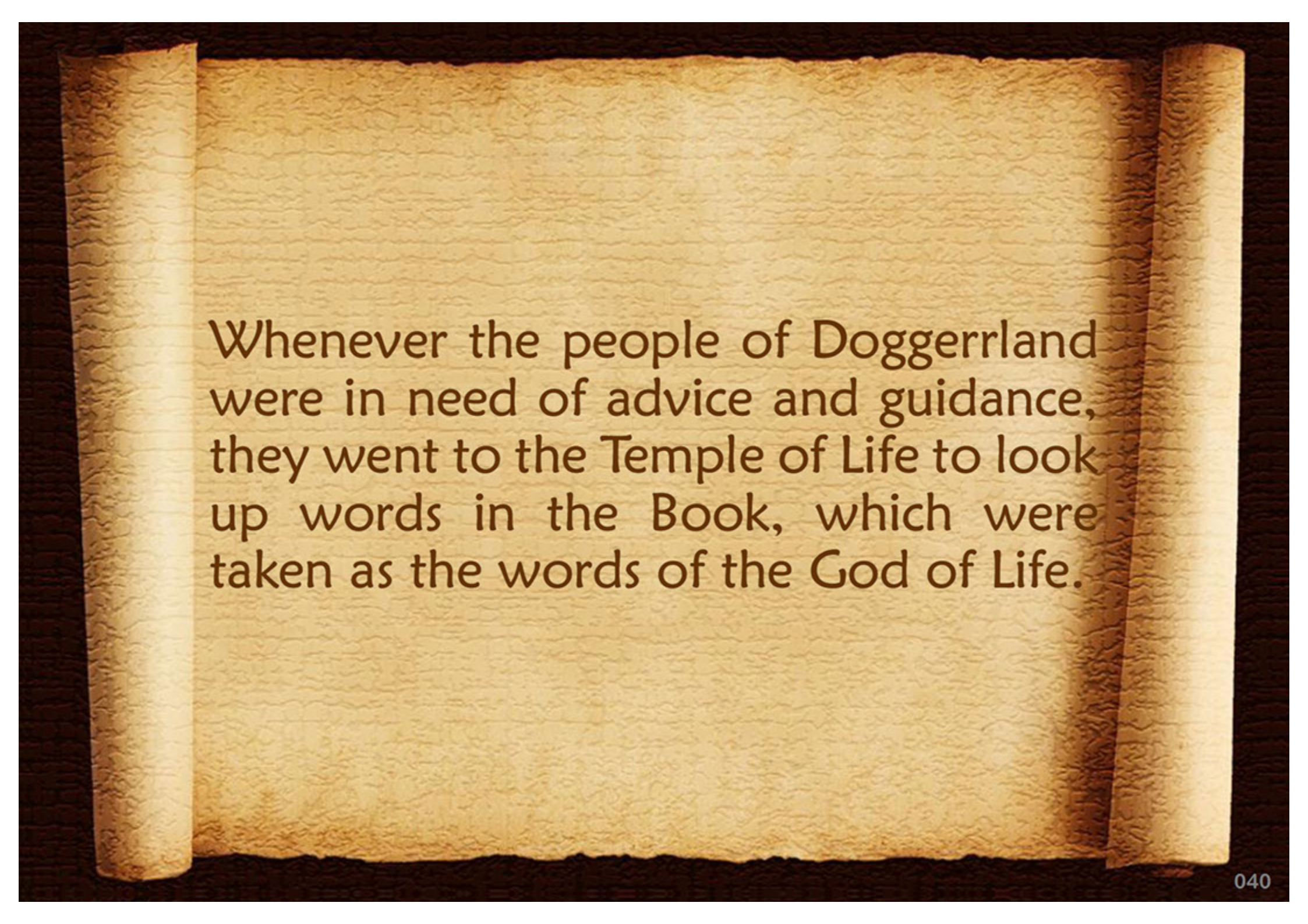


The people of Doggerland had a friendly and grateful nature.

Whenever something good happened, the residents went to the temple to sing a song of thanksgiving in honor of the God of Life.

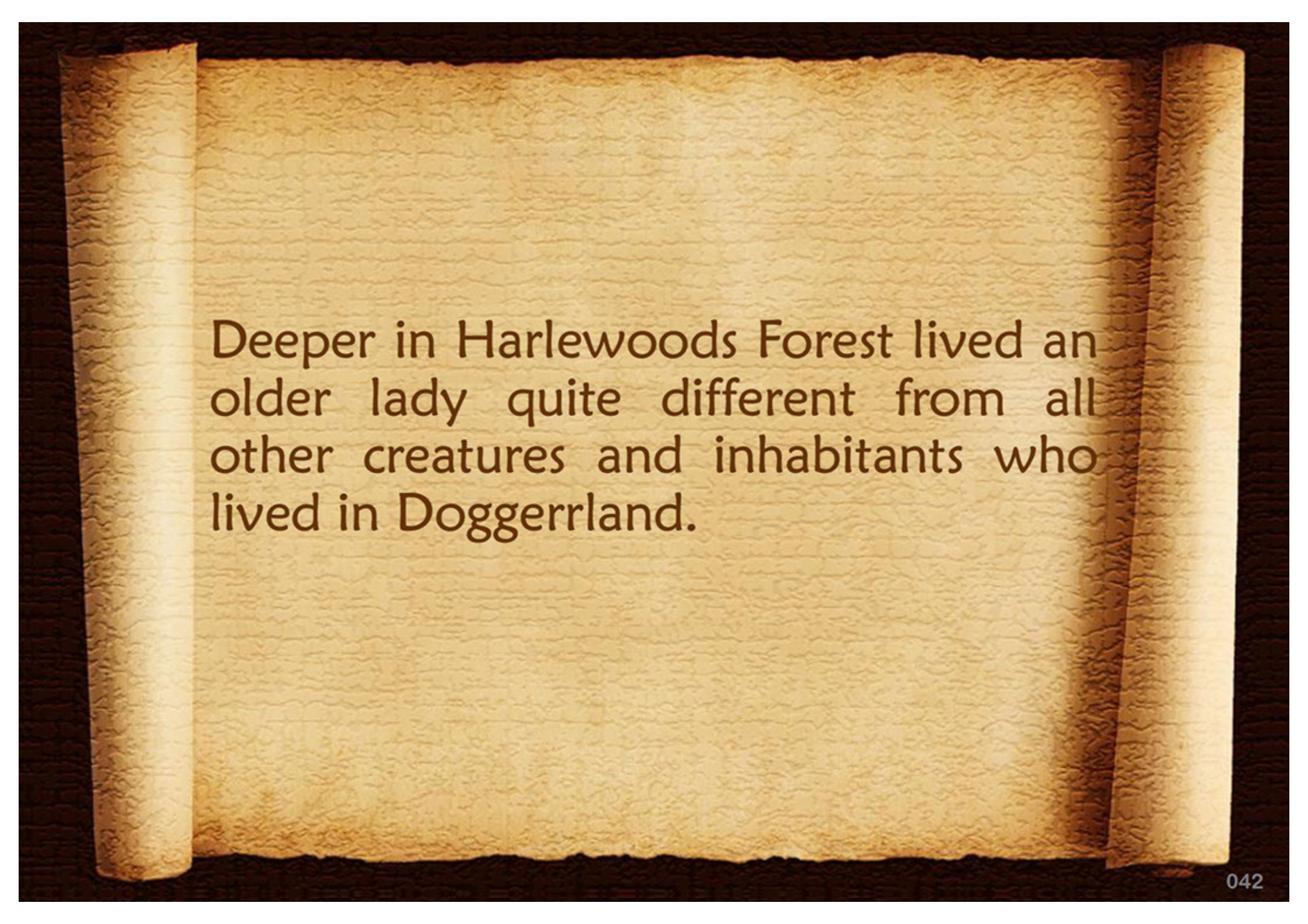
A scroll of aged, yellowish parchment with a textured surface, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is set against a dark background. The text is written in a simple, dark font.

There was also the place where children and adults went to learn the teachings of the Book of Life, and it was a place for celebrations and important events of Doggerland.

An open scroll with a parchment-like texture, showing two pages. The text is written in a dark brown, serif font. The scroll is set against a dark background.

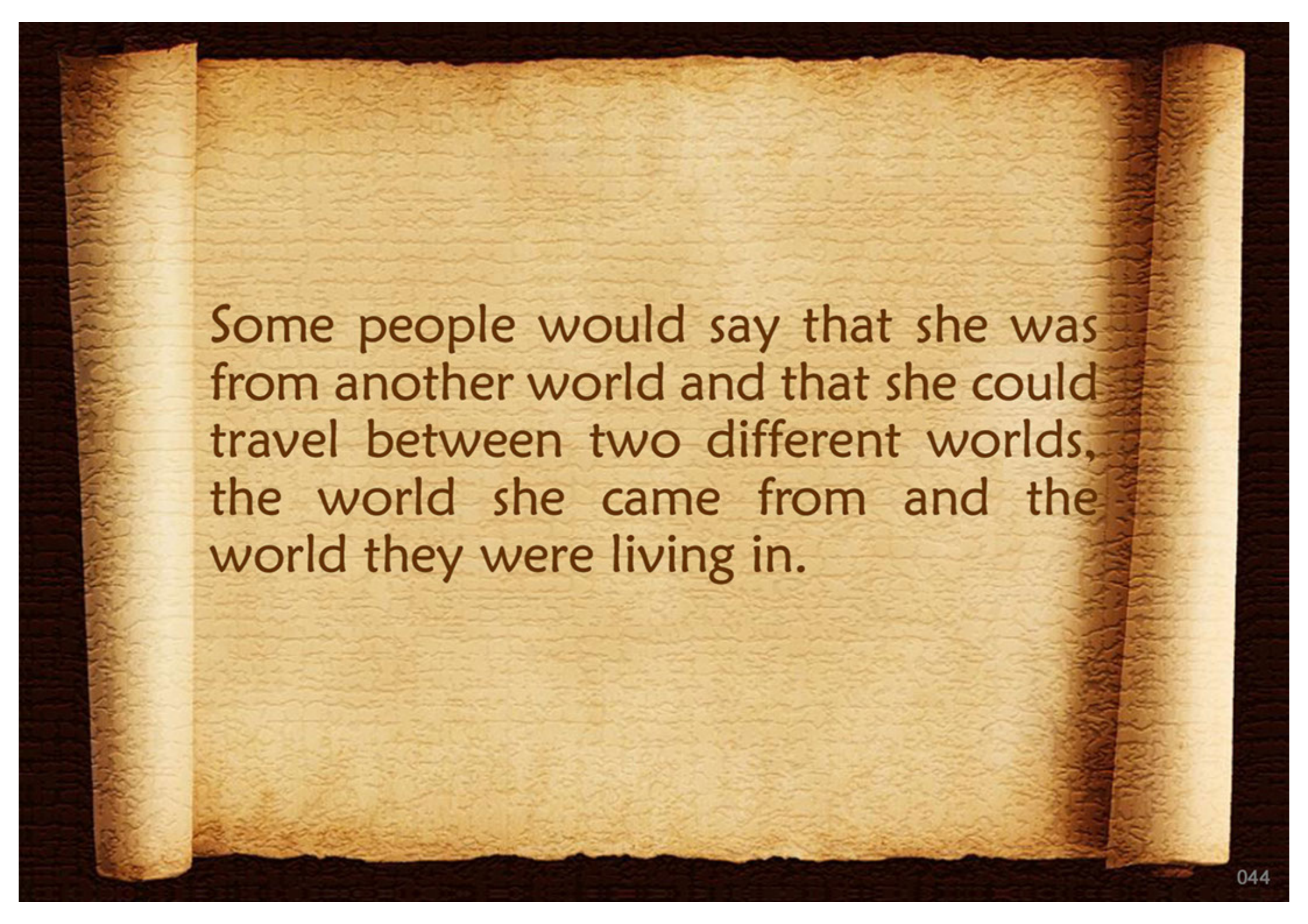
Whenever the people of Doggerland were in need of advice and guidance, they went to the Temple of Life to look up words in the Book, which were taken as the words of the God of Life.



An open scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled in the center, showing a large blank space. The text is written in a simple, dark brown font. The background is dark, making the scroll stand out.

Deeper in Harlewoods Forest lived an older lady quite different from all other creatures and inhabitants who lived in Doggerrland.

Nobody knew exactly what kind of creature she was, nor where she came from. All they knew was that she had been there for a very long time, ever since they could remember, having been in Doggerland far in the past, for many generations.



Some people would say that she was from another world and that she could travel between two different worlds, the world she came from and the world they were living in.

Doggerland

KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND



Her name was Mad-ellia and over the years she had won the sympathy and confidence of the royal families in Doggerland and its inhabitants with a kind and gentle attitude, so far that she became a counselor to the king, although some considered her somewhat suspect...

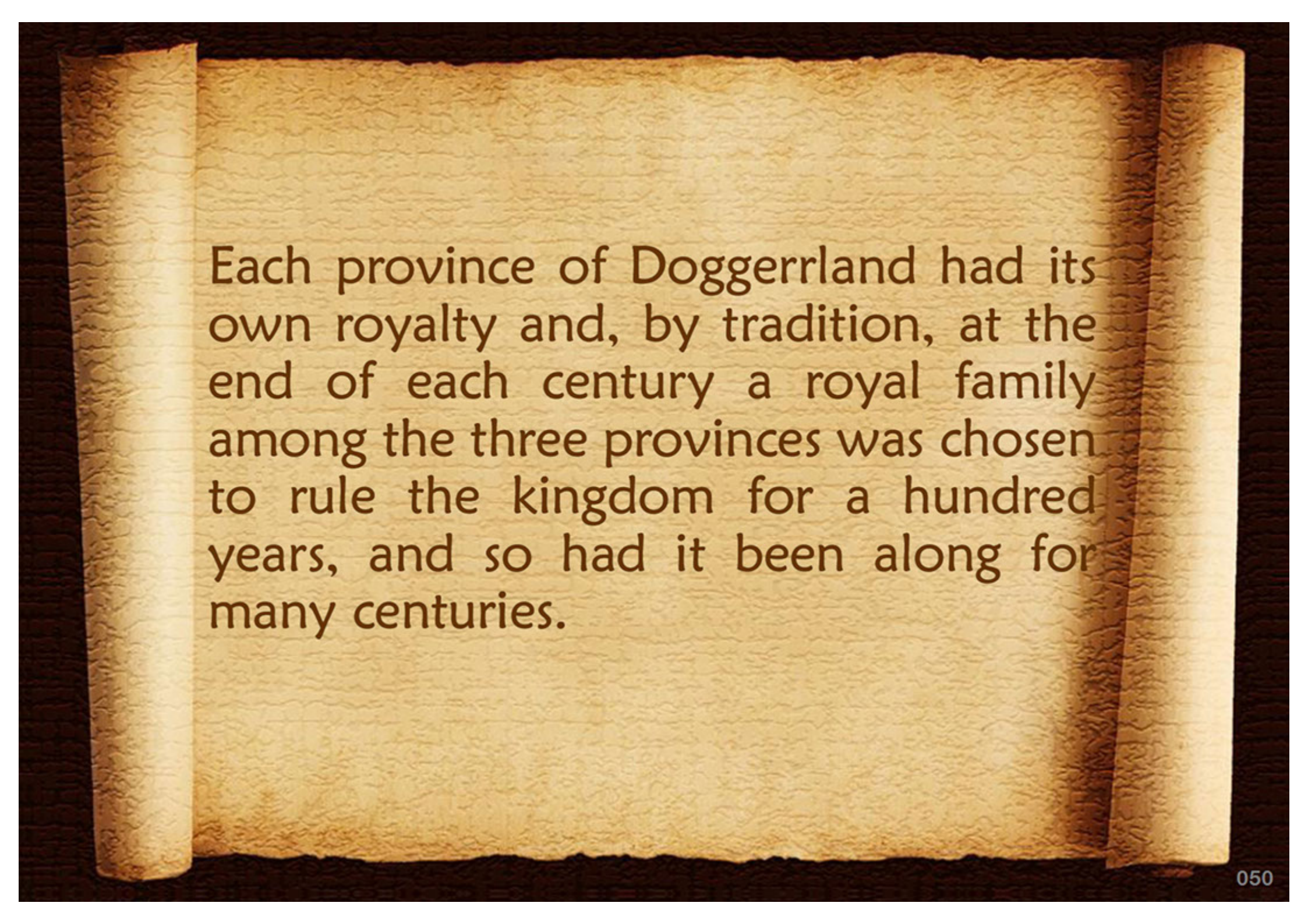
Her little house looked quite friendly surrounded by the trees of the woods. In the back yard there was a small vegetable garden, a barn and an old and very tall, large oak tree.

In the front yard there were all kinds of different flowers, and also a well.

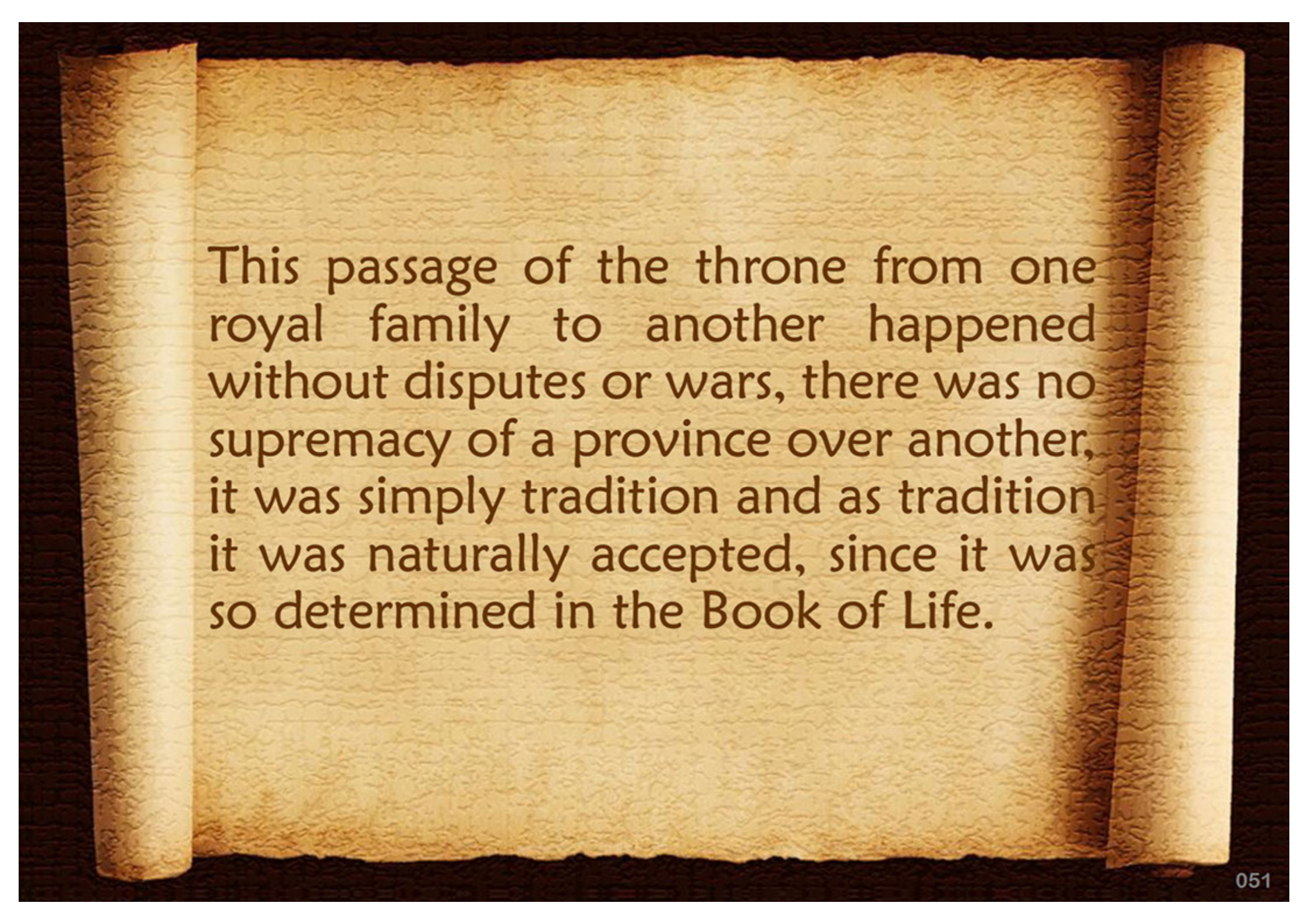


Nobody would dare to visit Mad-ellia if not invited, because although she seemed to be very friendly, it was known that some people who went to see her without an invitation never returned.

Others would say they had just got lost in the forest, since the way to find Mad-ellia's place seemed to be a huge maze.

A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central section of text. The text is written in a dark brown, serif font. The scroll is set against a dark background.

Each province of Doggerland had its own royalty and, by tradition, at the end of each century a royal family among the three provinces was chosen to rule the kingdom for a hundred years, and so had it been along for many centuries.

A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.

This passage of the throne from one royal family to another happened without disputes or wars, there was no supremacy of a province over another, it was simply tradition and as tradition it was naturally accepted, since it was so determined in the Book of Life.

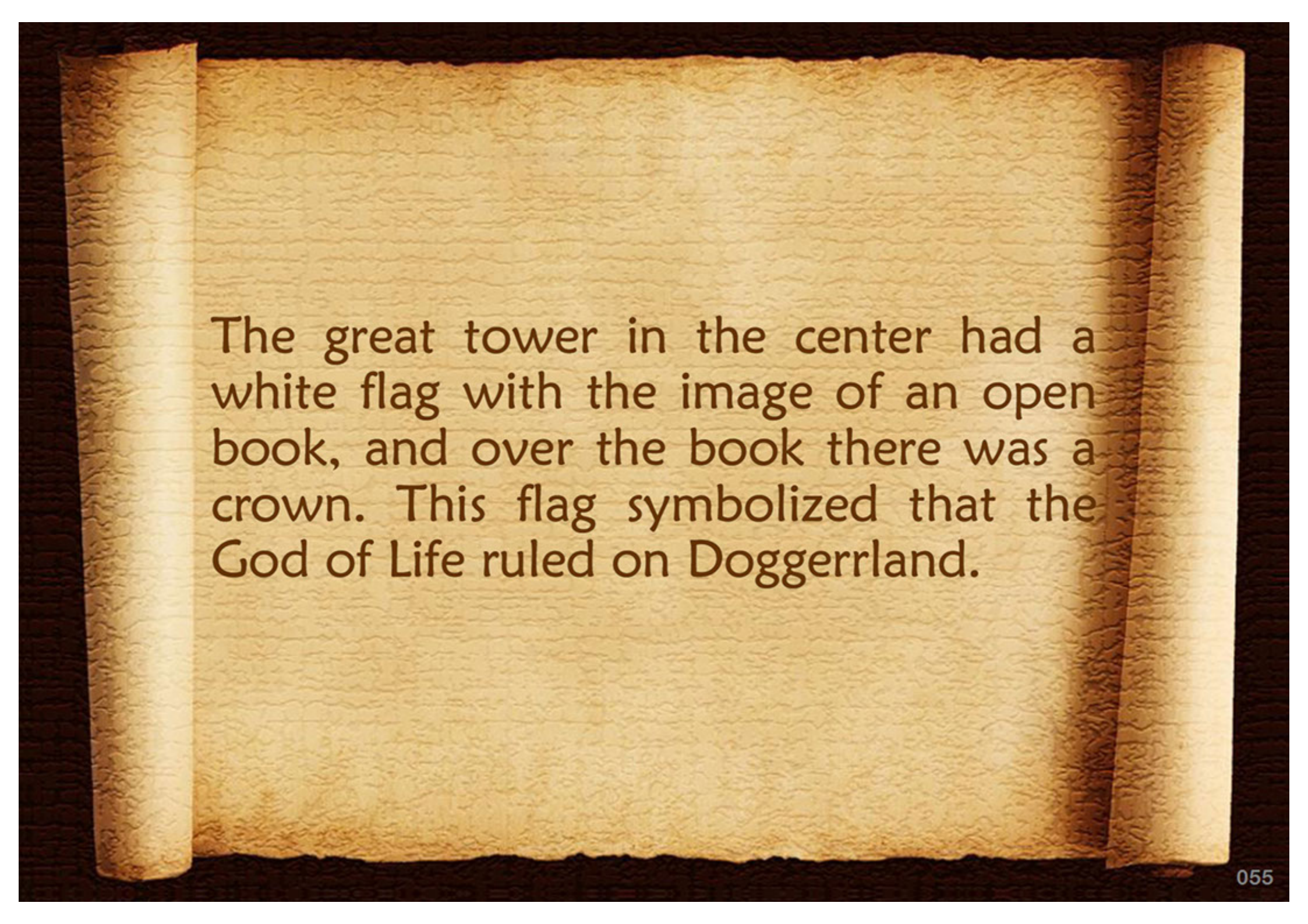
At the intersection of all three provinces, at the center of the land and down near the valley was the ROYAL RING, a small territory destined for the chosen royal family to rule all the kingdom of Doggerland.

Doggerland

KINGDOM'S MAP OF DOGGERLAND

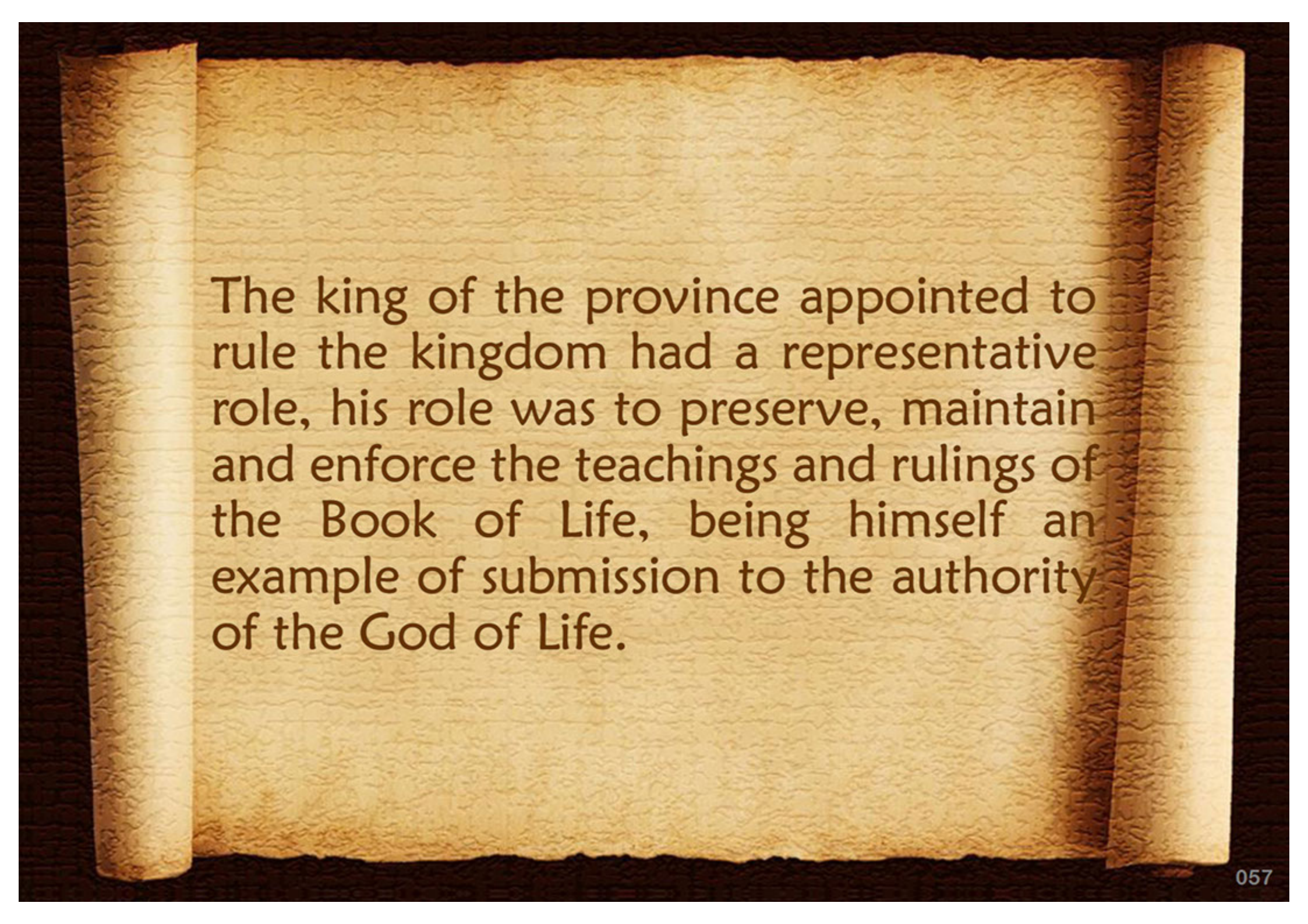


The Royal Ring was a huge fortress with twelve smaller towers and a higher tower in the center of the complex. Each of the twelve towers had a flag with a symbol representing the colors of the inhabitants of Doggerland, and all twelve towers formed a ring symbolizing the unity and alliance between the three provinces.

A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.

The great tower in the center had a white flag with the image of an open book, and over the book there was a crown. This flag symbolized that the God of Life ruled on Doggerland.



A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.

The king of the province appointed to rule the kingdom had a representative role, his role was to preserve, maintain and enforce the teachings and rulings of the Book of Life, being himself an example of submission to the authority of the God of Life.

By the time our story begins, the province of Golden Seasons was ruling the kingdom. However, the period of one hundred years of its government was coming to an end.

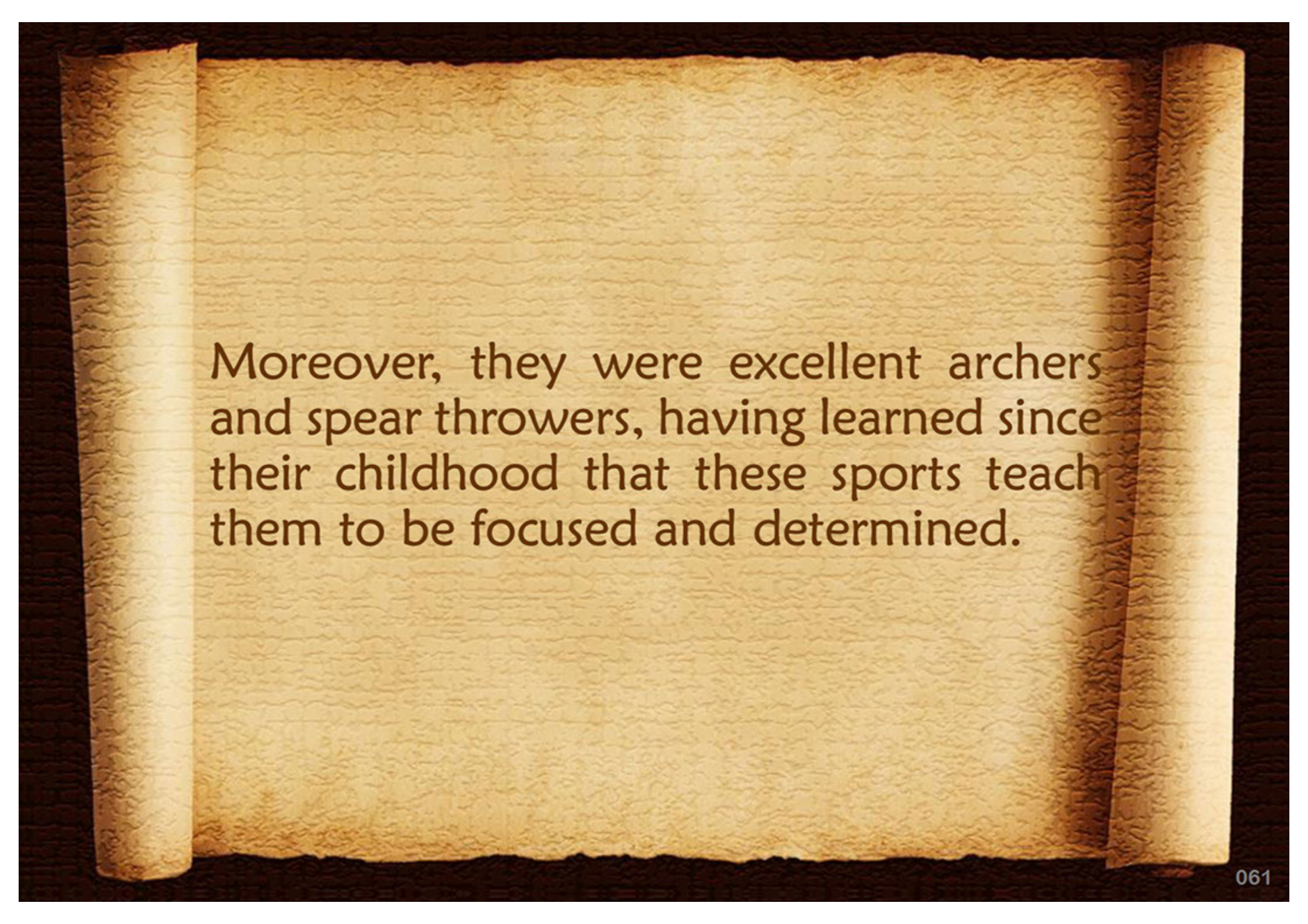
Within a few years, the province of Harlewoods would assume the role of representing the government of the God of Life in Doggerland.

This was the most important event in the kingdom of Doggerland and the most anticipated, since all living in Doggerland knew about the big party that would celebrate the passing of the crown.

However, many other events were held throughout the year, because the inhabitants of Doggerland were a very happy folk and liked to party.

Although the residents of Doggerland were peaceful, they liked to practice certain forms of struggle as a sport, especially fencing, with the intention of keeping themselves in good shape and learning to deal with their emotions and have self-control.

In the Book of Life it was said that “someone without self-control is like a city with broken walls”.

A scroll of aged parchment with a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven. The background is dark, making the parchment stand out.

Moreover, they were excellent archers and spear throwers, having learned since their childhood that these sports teach them to be focused and determined.

Tug of war was a very popular sport among the provinces of Doggerland, but the most important of all, which was part of the festivities of the passing of the crown, was a sort of athletics known as **Agility!**

CHAPTER II – MAXIM AND THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

In Harlewoods there was a small village near Harlestone Castle called Aya, where a sweet young girl lived, whose name was Maxim.

Maxim was a very happy and joyful girl. She had many friends, but Laio and Florian were her very best friends and they had known each other ever since they were very little babies.

One day, Maxim and her friends decided to go to the Blue Lake in the Province of Blue Valley for fishing and for a swim. It was a beautiful sunny day with no clouds in the sky and they went all the way talking and laughing all the time.

But, all of a sudden, as soon as they reached the shore and were preparing to jump into the water, the sky went pitch black and it looked as if a terrible storm was about to begin. The water in the lake began to form huge waves and suddenly a huge silver fish appeared in front of Maxim!



She was scared to death and started to shiver from fear. Her knees began to shake and she thought she would faint as the fish looked straight at her and started to talk.

- 'Don't be afraid my child, you are a very precious one to the God of Life. He has chosen you for a great purpose.'

Maxim was still very scared as she asked:

- 'But who are you?'

- 'My name is Alistair; I am the guardian angel of Doggerland. And I have a very important message from the God of Life to you. Listen carefully to my words. Behold, a time of great anguish and pain is to befall this kingdom, a time of tribulation as never before! But you have been chosen to bring peace and joy back into this realm and, perhaps, to this and to other kingdoms.'

- 'But I am just a little kid, how could I fulfill such a mission?' – asked Maxim.

- 'Don't worry about that, my child. At the right time the God of Life will lead you and show you what will be the right thing to do. He will bring people in your life to help you on your way. Be brave, he will take care of you always, and ensure that you succeed in His purposes!'

Having said these words, the big silver fish disappeared beneath the water of the lake and the sky turned blue again and the sun began to shine.

However, Maxim found herself lying on the grass while her friends were around trying to revive her. Laio was holding her head over his knees while Florian kept calling:

- 'Wake up, Maxim, come on, wake up, please!'

Maxim opened her eyes shaking her head and asked:

- 'What happened?'

- 'Are you all right?' – asked Laio.

- 'Oh ... did you see the big silver fish?' – replied Maxim.

- 'Big silver what? You fainted!' – said Florian.

- 'No, no... there was a storm, a horrible storm ... and the silver fish, the fish of the legend... I saw him, he appeared to me, right there!'

- 'Maxim, I told you not to eat all those berries you found on the way!' – replied Laio. – 'How many times do I have to tell you not to eat everything you see in front of you?'
- 'It might have poisoned you. Thank God you're still alive!' – concluded Florian.

Then they returned home and Maxim didn't tell anyone about the fish and what he said to her, because she thought nobody would believe her, although she kept the words of Alistair in her mind and in her heart...

CHAPTER III - MAD-ELLIA'S ADVICE TO THE KING

Some years later, as the time of the passage of the crown was very near, everyone was so happy and excited about the festivities which should start in just over a month!

The Great Gandra was the king of the province of Harlewoods and soon he would become the king over all the kingdom of Doggerland. His eldest son was named Fritz and he was reaching the age to marry.

In those days Mad-ellia decided to visit King Gandra to give him advice... She went to Harlewood Castle and asked to speak to the king.

Gandra liked Mad-ellia and decided to receive her in the yard of the Castle, where he was doing his morning walk.

- 'Good morning Your Majesty, how are you doing?' – asked Mad-ellia.

- 'Leave the formalities aside, Mad-ellia, I'm fine, thank you. What brings you to my presence so early in the morning?'

- 'My dearest friend Gandra, your elder son Fritz is coming to the age to marry, you know...'

- 'So....'

'Well, if it pleases the king, I would like to make a suggestion...'

- 'Go on ...'



- 'Let the king issue a royal decree calling on all young maidens of Harlewoods to attend immediately to the castle of your Majesty. Then, after a search for the most beautiful young girls, let the chosen ones be placed under the care of his personal attendants at the castle, and let beauty treatments be given to them. Then, on the last day of the greatest festivity, have the girls present themselves before the king and his son Fritz. Then, let the girl who most pleases young prince Fritz be his princess and wife!'

This advice pleased king Gandra, and he decided to follow it. But Mad-ellia had a request...

- 'There is a girl I have taken care of since she was still a baby as if she were my own daughter... She was abandoned at the door of my house and I never met her mother. I never mentioned this to the king, because I know that this is not a common case in Doggerland, and feared that the king could become angry with such negligence by a parent from this province. It happens that she became a beauty and she's also very kind and intelligent. So, if it pleases the king, I'd like to have your permission to bring her among the other girls for the presentation day!'

King Gandra was very upset by the fact that a child had been abandoned in Harlewoods, but did not attempt to investigate the case and gave permission to Mad-ellia to bring the girl on the great presentation day.

- 'Mad-ellia, what's the name of this young girl?' – asked the king.

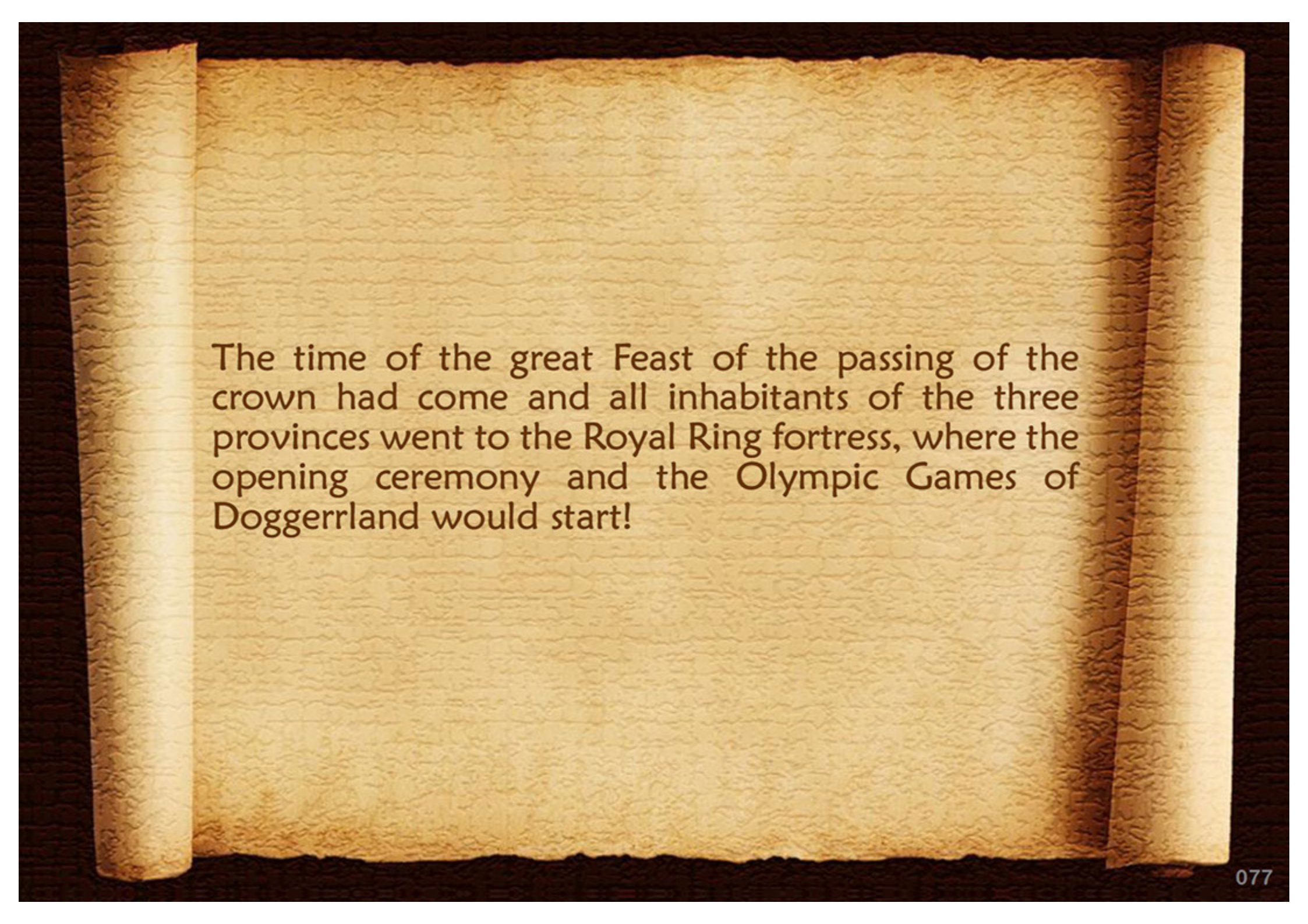
- 'Her name is Arlequina...'

So, Mad-ellia left the presence of the king and returned home to take care of Arlequina and prepare her for the special day, when young Fritz would choose his favorite maiden. She was convinced that Arlequina would be the chosen one.

CHAPTER IV – THE PASSAGE OF THE CROWN AND THE CHOSEN ONE

So, Gandra The king did as Mad-ellia proposed, issued a decree calling on all young maidens to go to the castle and sent dispatches to all parts of Harlewoods to announce this decree. Then he appointed commissioners in every town of his province to bring all these beautiful girls into the castle for the beauty treatment with oil of myrrh and special food.

At the time of this decree, Maxim had become lovely in form and features and she was among the chosen girls who were taken to the Harlestone Castle in Harlewoods for the beauty treatments, a whole month of treatments, prescribed by Mad-ellia for the young ladies.

An open scroll with a parchment-like texture, showing a central section of text. The scroll is unrolled, revealing the text on the inner surface. The background is dark, making the light-colored scroll stand out.

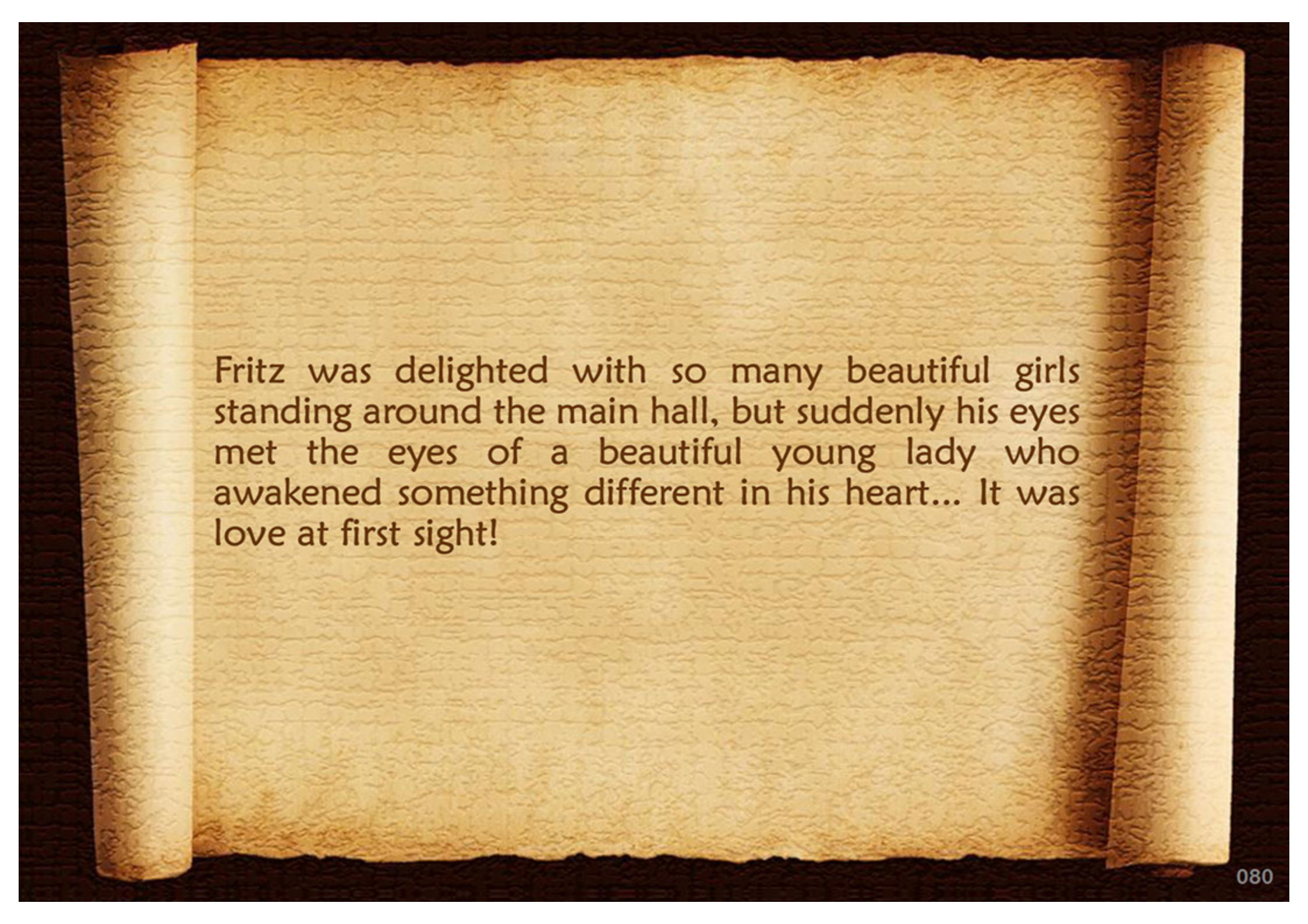
The time of the great Feast of the passing of the crown had come and all inhabitants of the three provinces went to the Royal Ring fortress, where the opening ceremony and the Olympic Games of Doggerland would start!



On the seventh Day of festivities, after the Passing of the Crown ceremony, Gandra the King gave a great feast in the court yard of the fortress for all guests, from the least to the greatest, and instructed all the stewards to serve each one all the drinks and food they wished. Mad-ellia was there also, eagerly awaiting the start of the great ball, where the girls would be presented.

Later on in the evening, as King Gandra was in high spirits, he ordered the trumpets to be sounded to announce the start of the ball. Then he commanded his attendants to bring before him and his son Fritz all the young chosen girls that had stayed for a month in Harlewood's Castle.

The great Ball had begun!



Fritz was delighted with so many beautiful girls standing around the main hall, but suddenly his eyes met the eyes of a beautiful young lady who awakened something different in his heart... It was love at first sight!



They danced all night and Fritz knew that this beautiful and lovely girl was the love of his life; his chosen one... her name was Maxim!

Mad-ellia was furious and burned with anger, but she pretended she was happy for the choice of Prince Fritz and greeted the young couple politely.

After the great feast, when the day was already dawning, Mad-ellia and Arlequina returned home. Mad-ellia was distraught and could not understand how the prince could have chosen Maxim, instead of Arlequina.

In fact, Mad-ellia belonged to another world, called Probopolo. There she had become well known as a judge and breeder of Great Danes and, as such, was highly respected. There, she was very wealthy and possessed more than a hundred great danes in her properties.

Arlequina was her best bitch and she often won 'Best in Show' in nearly all dog shows that she had participated. Being well known among all most important breeders, she became an icon of the breed in Probopolo.

In the gardens of the property where Mad-ellia used to live in Probopolo was a big old oak tree. This oak was huge and had a hidden passage behind the foliage, giving entrance to the inside of the tree trunk.

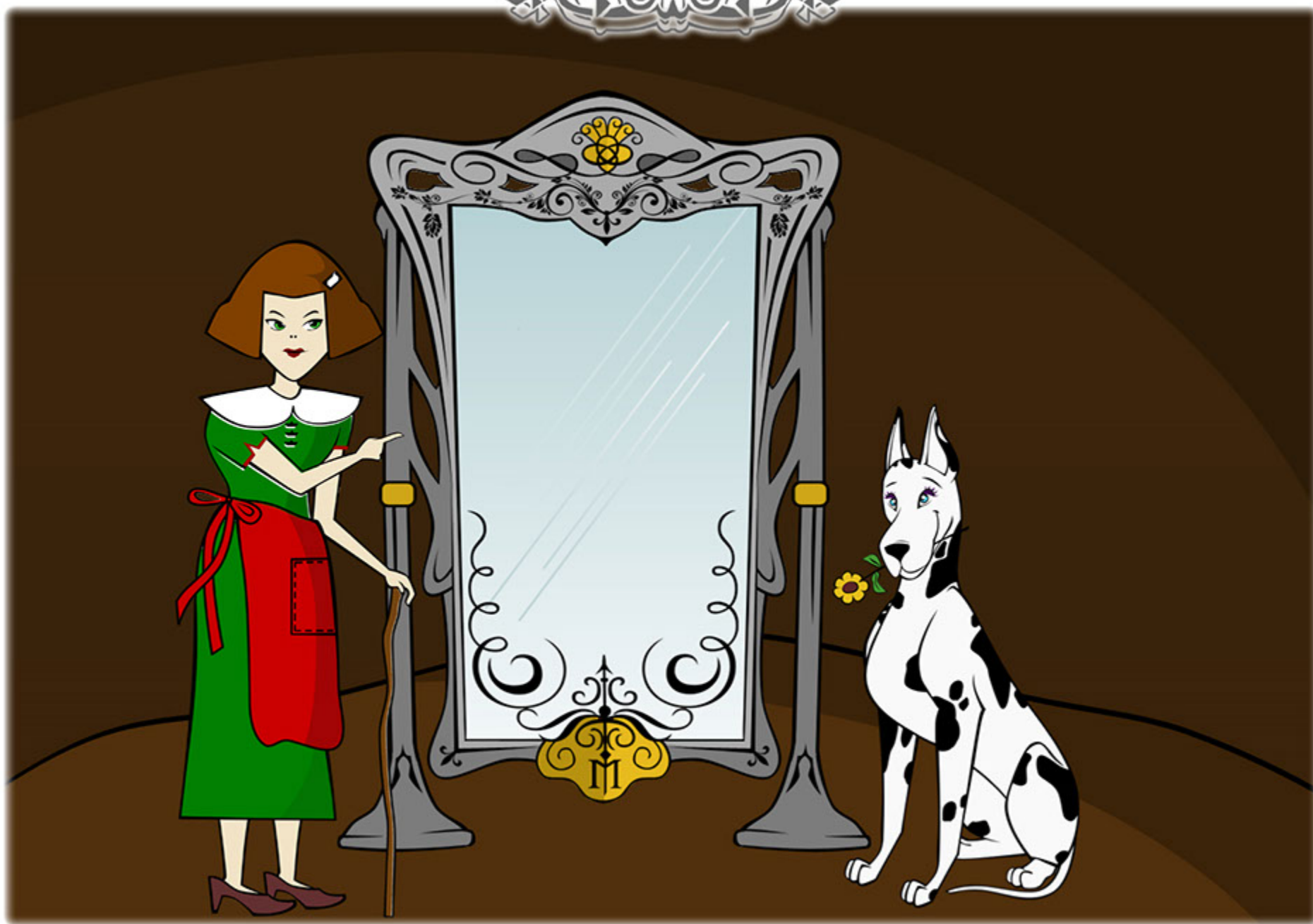
However, in the old oak was hidden a secret. Inside of it was a magic mirror that allowed Mad-ellia to transit between two worlds, Probopolo and Doggerland!

Behind her house in the forest of Harlewoods, there was also something like a doubling of the oak and the mirror, which would allow her to go back and forth to Doggerland, whenever she desired.

On the back side of the mirror there was an inscription that nobody in Probopolo could see, but only a native of Doggerland could see and read this inscription through his eyes, although, would not be able to understand its meaning. The inscription says:

VANITY IS MY NAME

In her unbridled greed, she had intended to reign over Doggerland through Arlequina. She took her from Probopolo through the mirror to the world of Doggerland, believing that she would be chosen by young Fritz to be his princess.



Full of anger and fury, Mad-ellia spent all day and all night walking from one side to the other, plotting another way to achieve her purpose.

Arlequina was a very sweet, submissive and loyal young girl, despite not receiving much affection from her owner. Seeing the state in which Mad-ellia was, Arlequina picked up some flowers in the garden and took them to her, in order to calm her down. But, this act didn't pleased Mad-ellia at all...



Arlequina!!
You used to mess up in my
garden at home in Probopolo, are you
going to behave that way even here, in
Doggerrland? Keep behaving like that, and
I'll lock you up in the kennel at home!
Or should I give you some of this
'Merkill' potion?



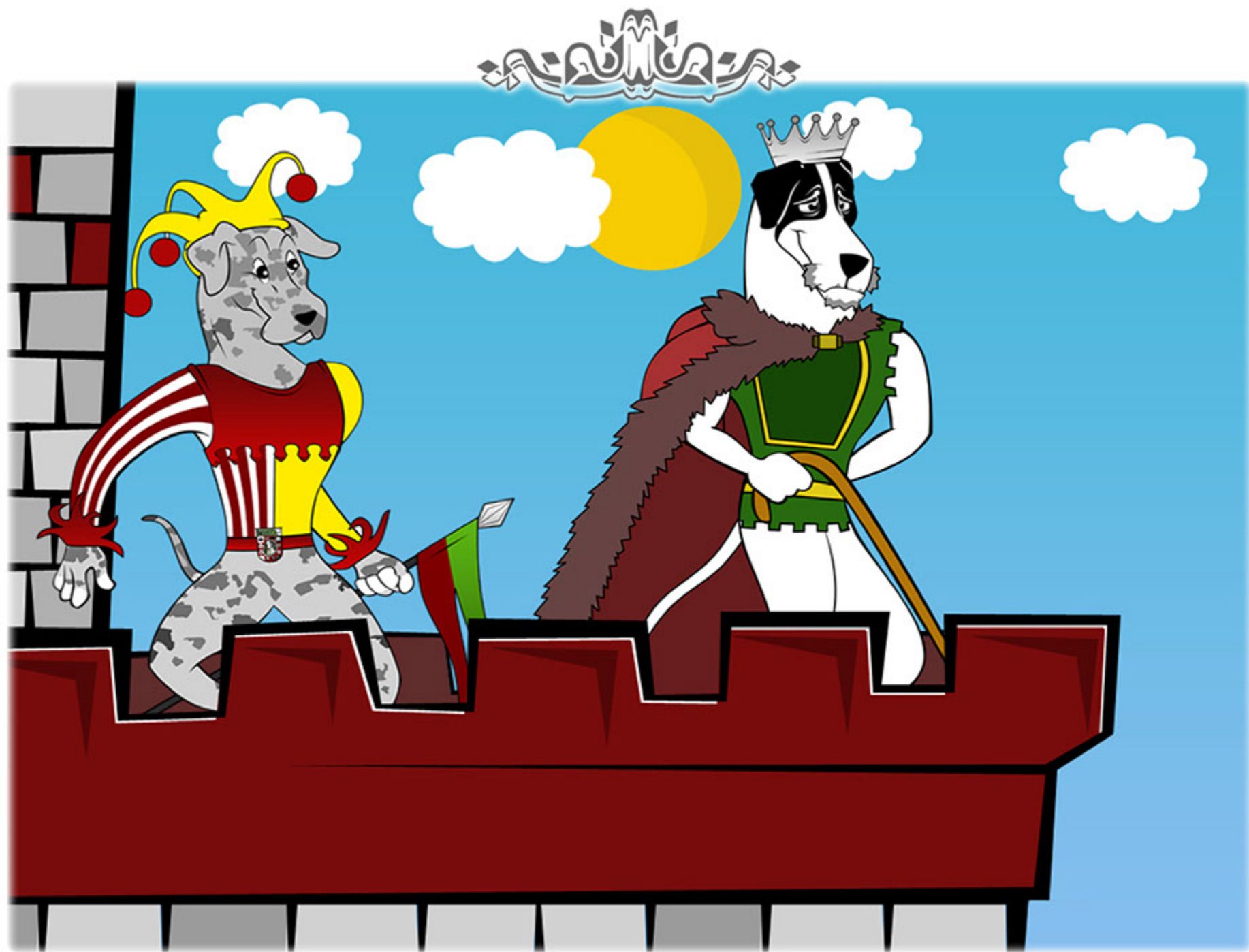
CHAPTER V – TRAP BEHIND LIES: MAD-ELLIA'S SECOND ATTEMPT

Fritz and Maxim had married and over the years they became more and more in love with each other. The years passed and Maxim had forgotten the vision of the silver fish that she had had in her childhood.



They lived happily in the castle with Gandra The King, who was now much older, but still in good shape and in good mood. Meanwhile Maxim and Fritz have had nine children: Fritz Jr., Olimpia, Oliver, Olivia, Obi-Wan, Ottieszka, Owtinne, Odrian and One-Neo. King Gandra was still a good king and also a loving Grandpa.

One day as king Gandra was on the balcony enjoying the fresh morning air and the beautiful garden of the castle, Mad-ellia was announced to the king by Florian, Maxim's childhood friend, now working at the castle as a court jester.



The king ordered Mad-ellia to enter and received her on the balcony where he was enjoying the morning sun.

- 'Good morning Your Majesty!' – greeted Mad-ellia.

- 'What a long time since your last visit. What brings you to me this morning?' – answered the king.

- 'I thought it would be nice to visit you again and see how you are doing, Your Majesty, and, also, I brought you a little gift, rare truffles that are found near the big oak tree, just beside my house in the forest.'

- 'How lovely of you Mad-ellia, you know how much I appreciate this delicacy!'

- 'Of course I do, your Majesty... and, I thought it would be nice to give the king this pleasure, while I am able to do so... since, you know, life is so short, we never know how long we are going to live...'

- 'That is true, Mad-ellia. I'm getting older too...'

- 'You know, Your Majesty, in front of my house down in the forest there is an old well that has a secret... but I haven't commented about it before, believing that it wouldn't be of your interest...'

- 'As you should well know, Mad-ellia, there shouldn't be any secrets from the king, since I am the representative of the God of Life in Doggerland.'

- 'Yes, I do understand Your Majesty, that's the reason I am telling it to you now... I didn't know about this secret until a short time ago. By the way, Your Majesty, did you ever thought of being the king of Doggerland forever, and never die?'

- 'What nonsense, you know what is said in the Book of Life, each province should reign for one hundred years, then the kingdom's government should be passed to the next province. That's an old tradition, determined by the God of Life.'

- 'Well... and, what would you think if I were to say that YOU could become like the God of Life himself, and reign over Doggerland forever and ever, and doing so ... would... never die?'

- 'That's impossible, Mad-ellia ..., but... well, how... how on Doggerland, could that be??'

- 'Let me explain it to you and make you a proposal, Your Majesty... after all, didn't you say there should be no secrets between your Majesty and his subjects...?'

- 'That's right, proceed...'

- 'A few days ago I was going to take some water from the well in front of my house, but carelessly I dropped my bucket into it. At first I was so upset, this bucket was a very precious and rare old piece of my ancestors and, also, it seemed that the well had dried up... But then, as I just wished the bucket should return to me, behold, the bucket was found immediately right back in my hand! I was so surprised that I decided to take an old ladder from my backyard and went down to the bottom of the well to figure out what had happened... but I did not find anything, just an old door there that leads to a small and empty chamber underneath the earth.'

- 'That's an amazing experience, Mad-ellia!' -
exclaimed the king.

- 'Yes, indeed! And now comes the most interesting part of all that...'

- 'Go ahead...'

- 'Every time I make a wish and throw the bucket into the well, my wish is immediately fulfilled!'

- 'That's quite extraordinary!' – exclaimed the king.

- 'And that's the reason I have come to see you, Your Majesty. I must say that this well has become a sort of... wishing well!'

- 'Wishing well...???'

- 'Yes ...you don't know but, the world I once came from has many kinds of wishing wells... people use to go there and make their wishes.'

- 'That's bad, Mad-ellia. You should know that in the Book of Life is said that we should trust all our wishes, and all our concerns to Him, and only to Him, the God of Life.'

- 'Listen to me, my friend Gandra, I understand that YOU should be the only one to have access and make use of this secret. Why don't you come with me to my house in the forest, and make a wish to the well? You could wish to be King over Doggerland forever. That would also mean that you would ...never die!'

- 'Mad-ellia, I couldn't do such a thing! The Book of Life is clear about wishes. It says that the God of Life is to be our one and only helper, we should never put our wishes and beliefs in anything else, only before Him, always.'

- 'Oh, come on, my old friend Gandra... Haven't I become the counselor to the king over the years? Haven't I give you many good advices, and help you marry your son to a pretty and lovely wife? Aren't Fritz and Maxim such a lovely couple? Listen to me once more Your Majesty, that's just an old book... an old fashioned book... it is time to renew your mind. Why don't you just give it a try... and... well, anyway, no one needs to know about that ...it would be our little secret, only between you and me.'...'

At first Gandra was shocked by the idea of making a wish to a well...It seemed weird to establish an intelligent contact with an inanimate object and tell it a wish... But suddenly he became so curious and interested about Mad-ellia's proposal... he was silent for a while, and then he said:

- 'Well, it wouldn't do any harm just to give it a try and see what happens... but you must promise me that this is going to stay only between us.'

- 'That's what I meant Your Majesty, only between you and me; after all, we've grown to be old and close friends, haven't we?'



Then king Gandra and Mad-ellia, agreeing to meet after dark in front of the castle gate, went together to Mad-ellia's house, within the forest. They walked for a long time and it was almost dawn when they arrived in front of the house where the well was.

- 'Here we are, your Majesty – said Mad-ellia – now, this is what you'll have to do: Come up here, step on the wall of the well, hold your golden scepter in your right hand straight in front of you, close your eyes, focus and desire with all the power of your heart and your soul, and then recite the words: I-want-to-be-king-of-Doggerland-forever! Once you have wished and said these words, let the scepter fall into the well and wait to see what happens...'

Gandra was so very tired from the long walk through the forest that he decided to do what Mad-ellia told him without a thought. As soon as he was standing there holding his scepter in front of him with his closed eyes, Mad-ellia came running behind him and gave him a push, throwing the king into the well!

She laughed loudly and said:

- 'You foolish old man, you should not listen to old ladies' tales... Now, I am going to be you, I am going to become a king over Doggerland, forever!'

After saying these words, Mad-ellia picked the scepter that flew in the air as King Gandra was falling into the well, and went to the old oak tree, where the magic mirror was. She looked firmly into the mirror and said:

- 'I am King Gandra now, I will reign over Doggerland, forever!!!'

The moment she uttered these words, she was transformed and assumed the appearance of king Gandra! Then she locked the king with Arlequina into the old barn behind the house and returned to the castle.

Now, Mad-ellia reigned over Doggerland!

CHAPTER VI - MAD-ELLIA REIGNS OVER DOGGERLAND – THE EVIL DECREE

Mad-ellia went back to the Royal Ring fortress and started to reign over Doggerland as King Gandra. Nobody could imagine what had happened to the real King Gandra, but everyone could feel that he was acting somehow strangely...

He became more and more rude and demanded that everyone should bow before him all the time, as a sign of respect and submission. He wasn't either the nice grandpa he used to be for his grandchildren, and sometimes would bite them on their ears when nobody was watching. The kids complained to their parents, but Fritz and Maxim didn't take it really seriously, since this wouldn't be a way for a king to act, especially with his own grandchildren.

After sometime, king Gandra called his servants and advisors and told them he had a vision. He told them that in his vision a messenger from the God of Life had appeared to him and said: “from this very day on you should be considered as the God of Life yourself, and not just as his representative. All power and authority of the God of Life is now upon you. You´ll be the judge of all the inhabitants of this land and have the authority and the power to decide over life and death!” Having said these words, he added:

- ‘Therefore, from now on you and all people of the three provinces of Doggerland should worship me, for I am god!’

Florian the court jester was standing near the main door of the great hall when he heard the king's speech and started to laugh compulsively.

Gandra, which was actually Mad-ellia, became furious and filled with rage. He said:

- 'How dare you laugh at the words of the king! This will cost your life, you fool!'



Gandra the king then ordered his vassals to take Florian, the court jester, to the Forbidden Island, where he should be abandoned to his own fate!

Maxim approached the king and then she said:

- 'Forgive me your Majesty, but is Your Majesty not being too rigid? After all, Florian is the court jester, he is always happy and laughing most of the time...'

It happens that Mad-ellia hated Maxim for being elected by Prince Fritz, and also happens that she and Florian had something in common... both of them had loads of grey color over their bodies.

While Maxim had a grey mask that covered her ears and eyes, and some round gray patches over her white body, Florian had a completely gray body, and both had darker grey and black speckles over their gray color.

In Doggerland, the coat pattern that they had were called Piebald-Merle and Merle, that is, Maxim was a Piebald-Merle dane and Florian was a typical Merle great dane, and those were very common and typical fur patterns among the inhabitants of the Province of Harlewoods.

From that day on, Mad-ellia began to hate all the citizens of Doggerland that were gray or had predominantly gray color over their bodies!

Gandra the king then answered to Maxim:

- 'The king's word should never go back, what is said is said! Take this jester to the Forbidden Island, immediately! Out of my presence, all of you!!!

On the next day very early in the morning, king Gandra decided to write and issue a royal decree. He ordered that the decree of the king should be proclaimed throughout the vast realm of Doggerland.

Then when the king's edict was proclaimed throughout the vast realm, all the gray or white and gray inhabitants of Harlewoods should be taken away to the Forbidden Island!

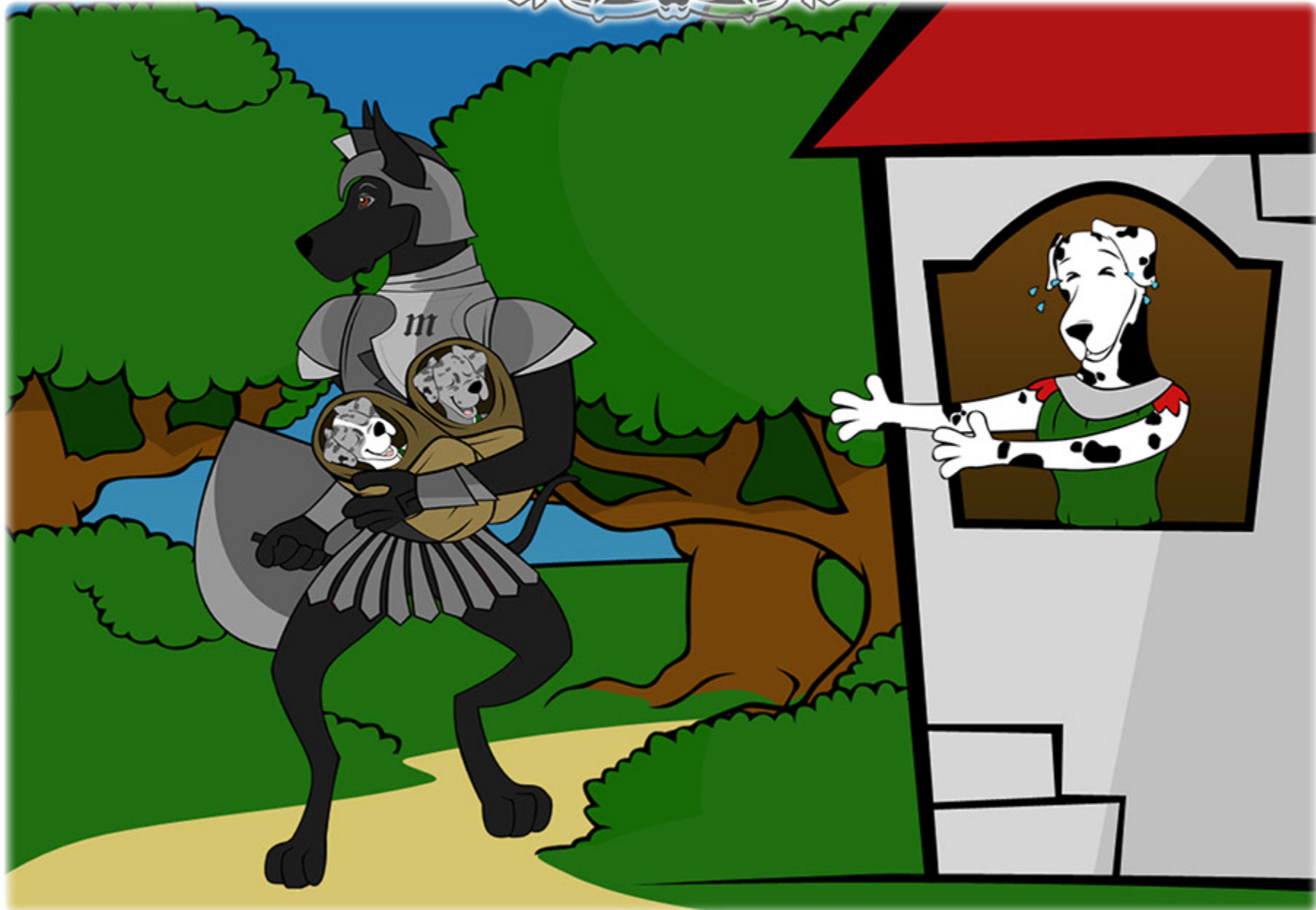
On the decree it was stated that the God of Life had summon all gray and all white and gray inhabitants of Doggerland to live in the Forbidden Island, because they would carry a terrible and very contagious disease, being a threat to the people of Doggerland.

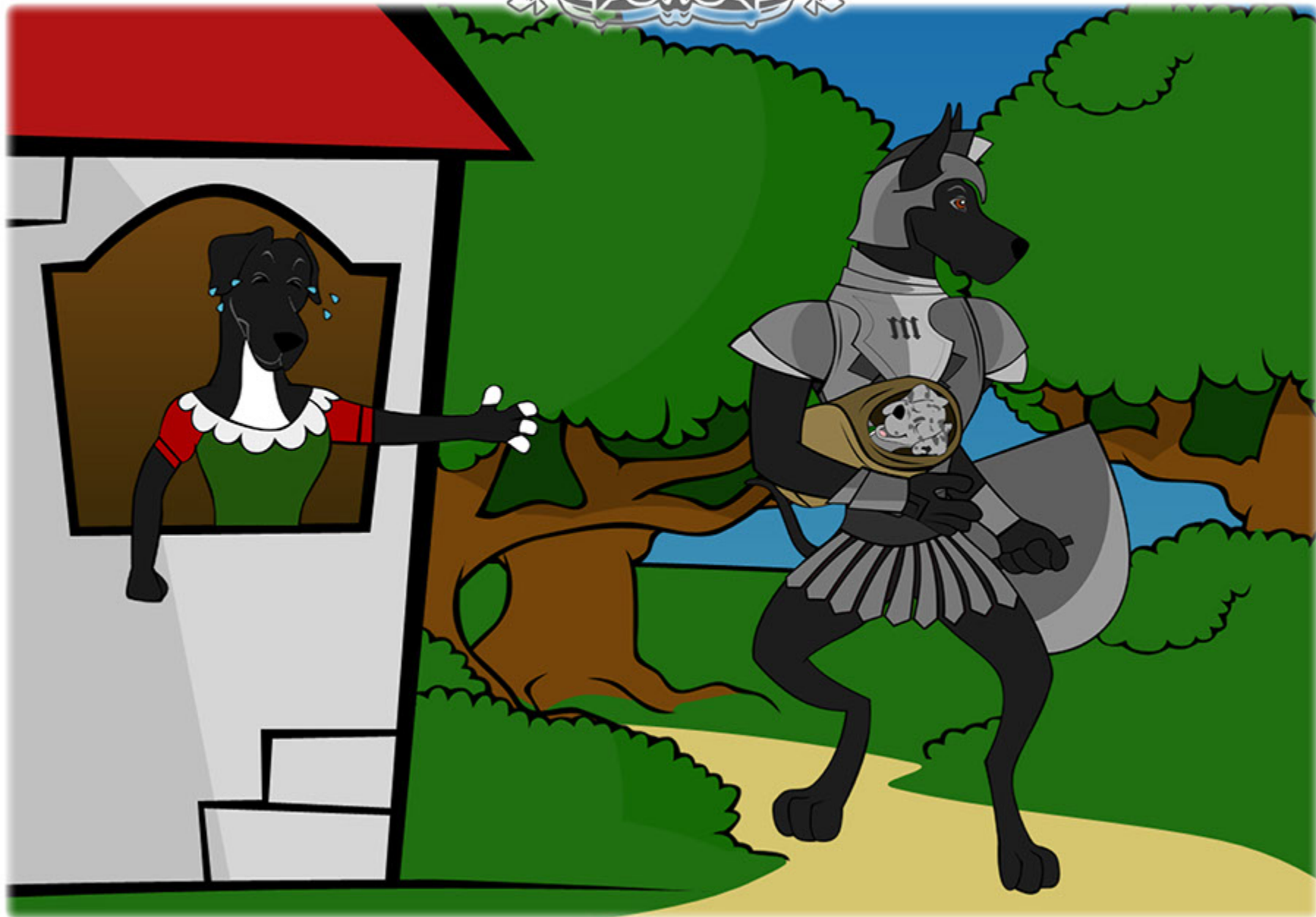
Moreover, full of pride and vanity, he began to rewrite the Book of Life with new instructions for the residents of Doggerland, in order to serve his selfish and evil purposes!

Florian was taken to the Forbidden Island and King Gandra created a militia to find and take to exile all citizens who were described in the terrible decree.

From the least to the greatest, from the youngest to the oldest, even little babies were taken away from their mothers if they had the gray color patterns that were described in the terrible royal decree of Gandra the king.

Then a time of great distress began unequal as ever before. A time of pain and suffering for all inhabitants of Doggerland! Parents were dragged from their homes, newborn babies were taken away from their mothers, siblings were separated from each other, husbands and wives were taken apart, and all of them were taken away from their families and the lives of the inhabitants of Doggerland to the Forbidden Island!





Sometime later, king Gandra was sitting on his throne in the main royal lounge in an awfully bad mood. So he called one of his servants and said:

- 'Bring to my presence the court jester, I want him to make me laugh!'
- 'But Your Majesty has ordered him to be sent to exile in the Forbidden Island...' – answered his servant.
- 'Oh, yes, that useless jerk got what he deserved... go and get me another court jester, now!! He needs to be replaced, right away!'

Gandra then got up and walked to the window to see who was on the balcony of the lower deck gesturing and talking loudly. He saw Laio, Maxim's childhood friend, talking with Fritz and imagined that he would make a great jester to amuse him. He called one of his officers and said:

- 'Go and bring me Laio, I want to talk to him!'

Laio knew the teachings of the Book of Life in which it was written that everyone must respect and obey the authorities, and show proper respect to everyone:

“Love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.”

But he also knew in his heart, no matter what happens, the God of Life was in control and decided to trust and obey the words of the Book.

So, though unwillingly, he submitted to the authority of the king and was taken to the tailor's room, where a court jester's garment would be sewn for him.

Sometime later, Mad-ellia, transfigured to King Gandra, called Laio and told him to follow her to a walk in the woods.

They walked to the house of the forest and then Gandra took him to the big oak tree behind the house and gave him some truffles to eat. It turns out that the truffles had a sedative and Laio soon became dizzy and fell unconscious on the grass.

Then the king Gandra, moreover, Mad-ellia disguised as King Gandra, went through the Magic mirror taking Laio with her. There she immediately returned to her normal shape, whereas Laio had been transformed into a dog like the dogs in Probopolo, where they walked on all fours and did not speak the language of the inhabitants of his world.

Mad-ellia then called the veterinarian who worked on her property and gave orders that the ears of Laio should be subjected to a surgery called conchectomy, so that his ears would stand up, because that is how she wanted to have her court jester to amuse her in Doggerland.

The vet took Laio to the operating room and did as Mad-ellia had instructed. Then he made a bandage on his ears and soon after, Laio was taken still unconscious to the great oak in the gardens of Mad-ellia's house. Mad-ellia then dismissed the vet and, while dragging Laio into the mirror, both returned to Doggerland.

There, under the spell of the mirror, Mad-ellia transfigured herself again as King Gandra and Laio returned to his normal shape, as he used to be in his world.

Mad-ellia now disguised as Gandra, took care of Laio until he recovered from the surgery. Then she brought him back to the castle, where he became one of her servants as a court jester.



CHAPTER VII – THE GREAT REVELATION

Mad-ellia then pretending to be Gandra, added a new rule in the Book of Life, which says that from that time on, there would be no passing of the crown from one province to another and that the province of Harlewoods would now have supremacy over the other provinces, and should reign on Doggerland forever.

In view of these events, Fritz and Laio decided to help Maxim to flee, so they took her to the Castle of Harlewoods where there was a secret chamber. They kept her hidden in this place, while Gandra, satisfied, believed that she was now in the Forbidden Island and rejoiced for his revenge on the choice of Fritz, for having chosen Maxim instead of Arlequina to be his wife.

Fritz was desolate with his father's attitude. He and his children together with his loyal friend Laio went to visit Maxim to tell her about the new law that Gandra had added in the Book of Life, and also about the terrible tragedy that had befallen the realm, because of the decree issued by the king.

Fritz talked to Maxim and said that his father had gone crazy, the God of Life would never agree with such a decree, requiring the removal and exile of his brothers and sisters because of a color matter, destroying homes and bringing pain and separation! The God of Life would never want to enact such nonsense, he said.

Maxim reminded Fritz about the teachings of the Book of Life as it was written that we must respect and obey the authorities. She said:

- 'Fritz, your father, the king, is in fact the highest authority in Doggerland, established by the God of Life, He is his official representative. Therefore his words should be taken as the very words of the God of Life.'

- 'Yes, we know, but it is hard to believe that...' - said Laio. Maxim then continued:

- 'As the legal representative of the God of Life, he does not have the authority to make his own decisions, but only to follow the guidance of the God of Life. The Book of Life is clear: We must respect and obey the authorities, regardless of their decrees and judgments they make. Turning against the authority of Gandra would be the same as turning against the authority of the God of Life!'

On hearing the words of Maxim, Fritz became even more desperate, so he said:

- 'But Maxim, dear, I don't want to lose you, I don't want you to be abandoned to your own fate at the Forbidden Island, this is too terrible to bear!'

Oliver, the eldest son of Maxim began to cry uncontrollably, although he was very brave and courageous, because he was also very sentimental and sensitive. Crying, he said:

- 'Mom, don't want you to die...'

Maxim comforted her son and replied:

- 'Do not worry son, you know what the Book of Life says. We must trust all our dreams and also our anxieties and concerns to the God of Life. Let us join hands and talk with Him. We will ask for his guidance and wisdom to know what to do. Remember, God is faithful!'

So they all together held each other's hands and talked with the God of Life, asking for his help. One after another, they put their concerns and requests before God. Soon after, Laio remembered something that could be important. He said:

- 'There is something I have to tell you! The other day late in the evening, I couldn't sleep, so I decided to go for a walk in the gardens of the castle. All of a sudden, I saw king Gandra sneaking out into the woods! He didn't see me but, ever since, I started to observe him and I could see that every night he is away from the castle, returning only the next day early in the morning... I wonder what he is up to.'



Fritz then had an idea... he said:

- 'We should follow him to see where he goes every night! Maybe we can figure out what is behind his strange and suspicious behavior!'

On the next day at night, Fritz, Laio and Maxim decided to follow king Gandra to find out where he went every night.

They walked into the woods behind Gandra until they reached a small and friendly little house in a clearing in the woods. It was Mad-ellia's home in Doggerland.

Then they crept through the trees and foliage and made a surprising discovery! They saw the exact moment that Gandra entered into the mirror, which reflected the image of Mad-ellia, and then disappeared!



They were so surprised with that amazing discovery that they decided to search the house and its surroundings. Then they made another amazing new discovery, they found the true king Gandra along with Arlequina locked in the old shed, behind the house!

CHAPTER VIII – THE CURSE OF PROBOPOLO

Fritz, Laio and Maxim released the true king Gandra and Arlequina from the old shed and Gandra started to tell them the terrible mistake he had made, having listened to Mad-ellia and disobeyed the teachings of the Book of Life.

Fritz started to tell his father the things that Mad-ellia had done in his name, bringing great sorrow and suffering to the people of Doggerland.

- 'Oh, my... What have I done!! I am so terribly sorry!' – exclaimed king Gandra. – 'I did not put my trust in the God of Life and listened to Mad-ellia. She said the Book of Life was just an old book, an old-fashioned book, and that all that was written in it should be regarded as only ancient legends written by danes, not by the God of Life... she said I needed to renew my mind... I ended up letting me be influenced by her... Please, forgive me!'

Laio listened to the words of the king, then he said:

- 'We need to reverse this situation, we have to release our people from this evil influence of Mad-ellia. But how are we going to do that? It seems that she has evil powers!'

Arlequina started to tell them all about Mad-ellia and the world that she came from.

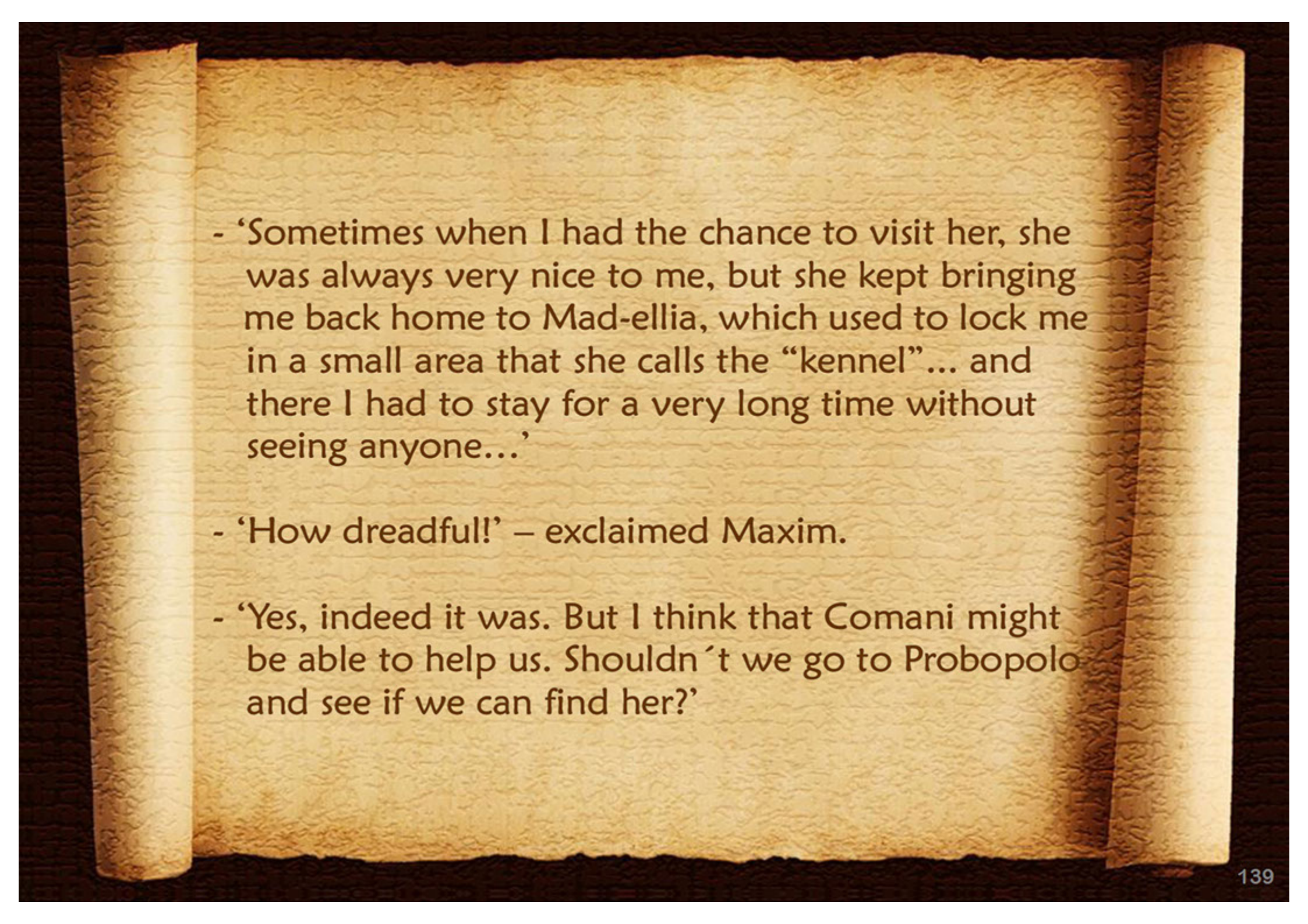
- 'Mad-ellia belongs to a world that is cursed.' – said Arlequina. She went on telling them everything she knew about Probopolo, because that was where she was born. She went on and said:
- 'Probopolo is a world that is now in the process of self destruction. There are wars and hunger, many diseases and a lot of misery. The ozone layer is being destroyed, forests are being burned, many species of animals are endangered, the air, rivers and sea are being polluted and the whole environment is suffering, and the atmosphere is undergoing global warming!'

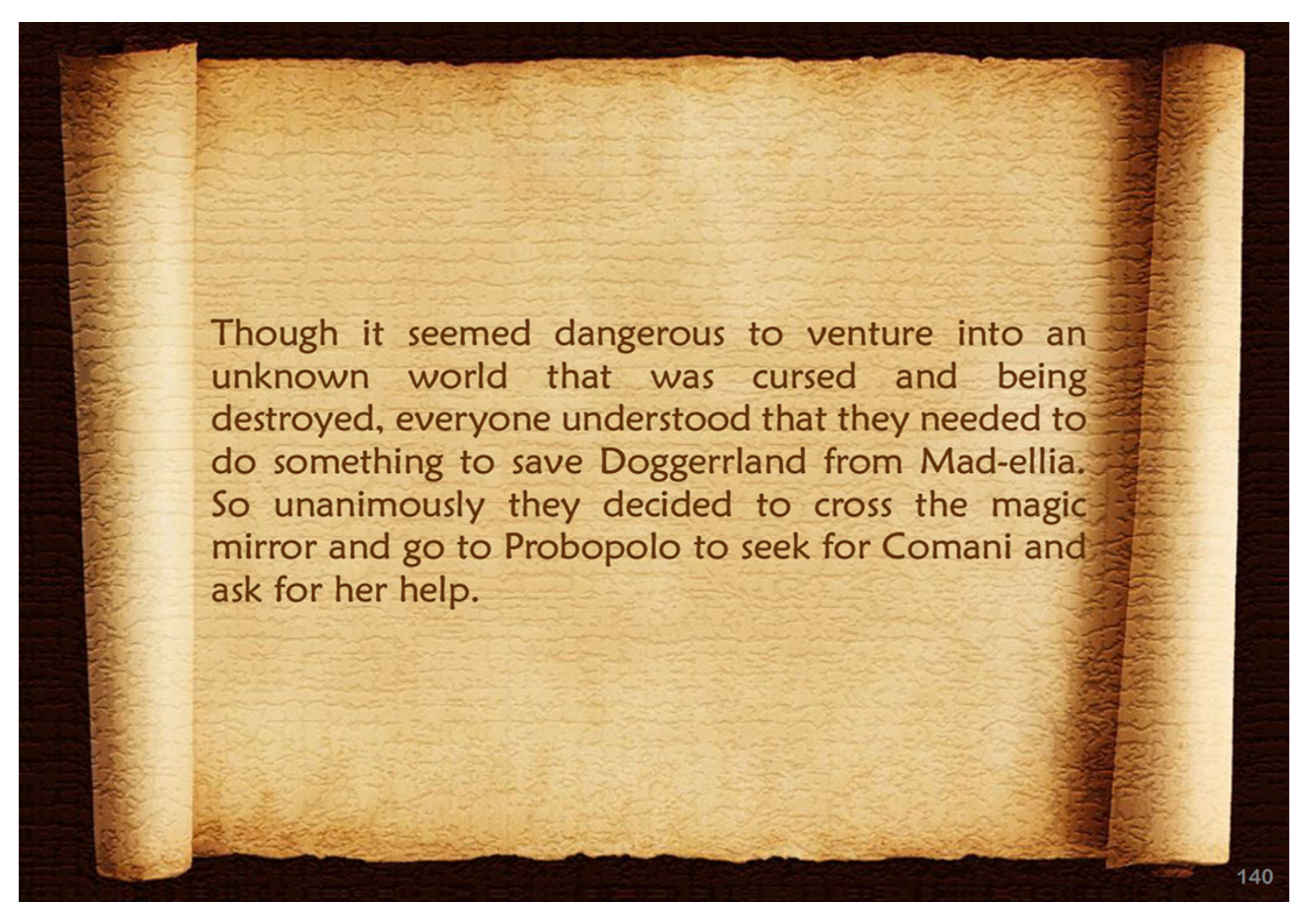
Everyone was devastated by the narrative of Arlequina about Probopolo. Maxim then asked Arlequina:

- 'But what happened? Why is this world being destroyed? Why is it cursed?'
- 'I don't know exactly, but it seems it has something to do with free will...' - answered Arlequina.
- 'Free...what?' – replied Fritz.

- 'Well, I don't know exactly how to explain. But there is a young lady who lives in Probopolo, just next door to Mad-ellia's house. Her name is Comani ... she is a human, like Mad-ellia, but she is very different from her. She has many of us, great danes, living with her, but she is gentle and affectionate with everyone ...she is a lovely friend to the ones that are under her care, the ones living with her in her home.'

Arlequina sighed and continued:

- 
- 'Sometimes when I had the chance to visit her, she was always very nice to me, but she kept bringing me back home to Mad-ellia, which used to lock me in a small area that she calls the "kennel"... and there I had to stay for a very long time without seeing anyone...'
 - 'How dreadful!' – exclaimed Maxim.
 - 'Yes, indeed it was. But I think that Comani might be able to help us. Shouldn't we go to Probopolo and see if we can find her?'



Though it seemed dangerous to venture into an unknown world that was cursed and being destroyed, everyone understood that they needed to do something to save Doggerland from Mad-ellia. So unanimously they decided to cross the magic mirror and go to Probopolo to seek for Comani and ask for her help.

CHAPTER IX – COMANI – A FRIEND IN PROBOPOLO

Gandra, the real king, returned to the Royal Ring in order to undo the terrible orders and decrees that Mad-ellia had issued in his place, and to bring back his brothers and sisters who had been exiled to the Forbidden Island.

Meanwhile Arlequina, Laio, Maxim and Fritz jumped into the mirror and came straight to the opposite world to which they lived, the world called Probopolo.



All of a sudden, they found themselves inside a large old oak tree standing in the middle of a large garden surrounded by a very tall wall.

There was also a huge house with a terrace overlooking the garden, which was Mad-ellia's home in Probopolo.

When crossing the border into the world of Probopolo, they all immediately turned into dogs of the type found in Probopolo. They began to walk on all fours, but could still communicate with each other in their own canine language.

Arlequina signaled them not to make any noise and called her friends to follow her to the other side of the garden, the other end of the property, and showed them a huge passage that was beneath the wall, giving access to the outside.

One after another, they crossed the passage under the wall and went to the other side where there were no buildings, just a vacant lot, an open area with many large trees and other plants nearby. Then they followed Arlequina toward the house of her friend in Probopolo, whose name was Comani.

At that moment as the four friends ran from the empty lot and arrived at the sidewalk, Comani, Mad-ellia's neighbor, was just arriving home and saw the four visitors.

She was very surprised to see four huge great danes running down the sidewalk by themselves, but soon realized Arlequina among them. She quickly got off the car and ran after them, calling Arlequina and telling her to stop.

Arlequina and the others ran back to the empty lot, to the place where the passage was, giving access to Mad-ellia's property. Comani went straight after them into the passage, coming to the other side where they were. All four started barking, trying to get her attention and calling Comani to see what was inside the big oak tree.

Once Comani approached the four friends, she saw them enter the trunk of the old oak tree. Then she saw the magic mirror underneath the leaves and plants that covered the entrance of the large tree trunk and she entered the passage to see it up closer... What a surprise! Comani saw all four dogs jumping into the mirror, one after another, and curious and venturous as she was, she jumped right into it after them.

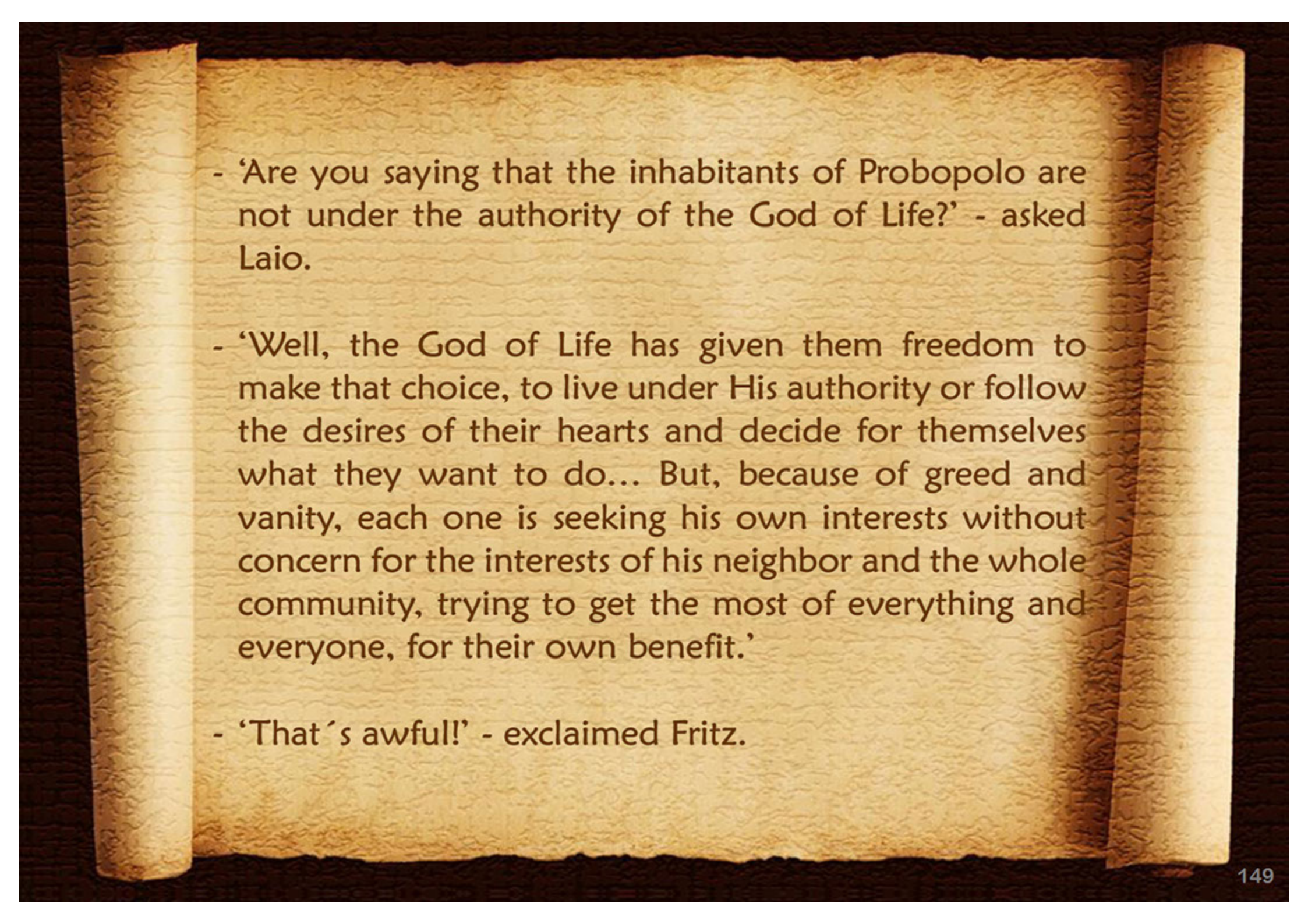
From one moment to the other, Comani found herself in Doggerland with Arlequina and her friends. She was amazed to see them standing on their hind legs, dressed and looking at her. But when Arlequina began to speak, Comani almost fainted from excitement! What an experience!

Arlequina gently told her not to be afraid and explained to Comani that they were in Doggerland, the land of the Great Danes!

Then she introduced her friends to Comani and told her about the tragedy that had affected Doggerland since Mad-ellia invaded their world and changed the laws that were there.

- 'Comani, Arlequina told us that the world of yours, Probopolo, is cursed...why is that?' – asked Maxim.

- 'Yes, unfortunately that is true... our world is cursed... The inhabitants of our world are destroying their own environment! They also have created nuclear, biologic and chemical weapons, capable of destroying and killing every living creature in Probopolo.'
- 'But this is horrible, why would they do such a thing to themselves?' – asked Fritz.
- 'Well, let me explain to you in an easy way... In Probopolo there is something called free will, this means that each one is free to decide on his own life, disregarding the authority of him who created all things. They decide what is right and wrong and so, each one follow the wishes of their own hearts, not the desires of His heart, the one who created them and everything else.'

- 
- 'Are you saying that the inhabitants of Probopolo are not under the authority of the God of Life?' - asked Laio.
 - 'Well, the God of Life has given them freedom to make that choice, to live under His authority or follow the desires of their hearts and decide for themselves what they want to do... But, because of greed and vanity, each one is seeking his own interests without concern for the interests of his neighbor and the whole community, trying to get the most of everything and everyone, for their own benefit.'
 - 'That's awful!' - exclaimed Fritz.

- 'This is the reason why the world of Probopolo is under a curse, a world that turned its back on its creator, a world opposed to the God of Life!' – concluded Comani.
- 'Oh, this is so very sad!' – said Maxim, with a heavy heart. Then Comani added:
- 'But the God of Life, in his great kindness and love, is still watching over them, helping them to find a way out of this terrible death sentence that mankind has spoken out against itself. He has established a way for those who want to reconcile with him and want again to submit to His authority. It is called the Way of Truth!'

- 'Here in Doggerland we also have a road called the Way of Truth! This path leads to the Temple of Life, the Temple of the God of Life!' – exclaimed Laio.
- 'Unfortunately, the majority has ignored it. They want to be god themselves; they want to decide about everything, even over life and death!' – said Comani.
- 'Oh, but that's too bad!' – said Fritz. And he proceeded:
- 'We need to find a way to stop this curse from spreading and reaching Doggerland. We must keep Mad-ellia away from us and prevent her from returning here!'

- 'Well, there are many "Mad-ellia's" in Probopolo, Fritz'
- said Comani, and continued:

- 'There is only one way to prevent them from doing here what they are doing in my world. We need to destroy the passage that links our worlds; we need to destroy the magic mirror!'

- 'But Comani, then you will never come to visit us again, here in Doggerland.' – answered Maxim.

- 'Yes, I know...' – said Comani - 'but this is the only way to preserve your world, the world of Doggerland!'

Then everyone decided that this would be the only right thing to do. Everyone said good bye and Comani returned to Probopolo. Then, together Maxim, Fritz, Laio and Arlequina tried to destroy the mirror, throwing huge stones on it. But something extraordinary happened. They could not destroy it, because all they threw at the mirror would go through it to Probopolo!

So, everyone was very sad because they could not destroy the cursed mirror.

CHAPTER X – ALISTAIR – THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

All four friends, Fritz, Maxim, Arlequina and Laio decided to go to the Temple of Life to present the great problem they had found to the God of Life, seeking for His help to save their world, the world of Doggerland.

Once they arrived, they entered the temple and went to the great hall and stood before the large table, on which was the Book of Life. They joined hands and began to speak with the God of Life, one after another, telling him about the problem of the mirror and asking for help to destroy it.

Although they could not see him, they could feel his tremendous presence!

Suddenly, Maxim remembered the incredible vision that she had had in her childhood, when she was at the Blue Lake in Blue Valley.

Maxim told her friends that she had remembered something very important, and needed to go to the Blue Lake, alone! They said good bye and Maxim walked all the way to Blue Lake.

It was a starry night and the moon shone in its entire splendor. The lake waters were calm and quiet. As soon as Maxim arrived at the lake, the big silver fish, Alistair, emerged from the waters of the lake and appeared before her!



Then he spoke:

- 'Maxim, the Great God of Life has heard your pleas and sent me to tell you what's the purpose he has set for you. Are you ready to meet his desire and fulfill the prophecy that is upon you?'

- 'Yes, here I am to do as the God of Life tells me to, Alistair.' – answered Maxim.

- 'So listen to me, my child, there is only one way to break the cursed mirror and bring peace back to Doggerland. Only a citizen of Doggerland may break the magic mirror, but he can only do it in the world opposite to which he belongs, that is, the world of Probopolo!'

Maxim realized that once she had broken the mirror in Probopolo, she could never return to Doggerland again... She was taken by a strong emotion and began to cry...

Alistair, seeing the sadness of Maxim, immediately comforted her with these words:

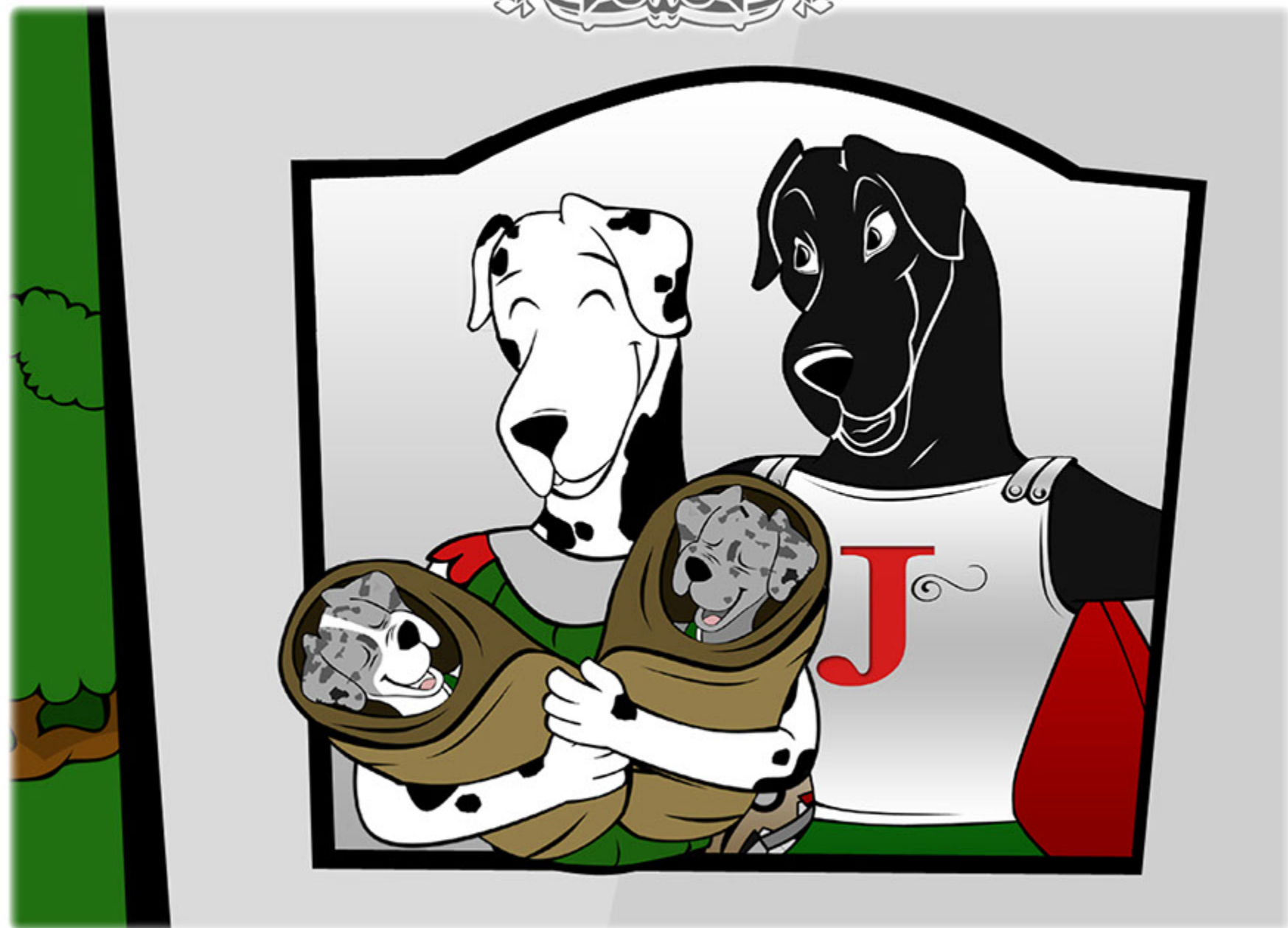
- 'Do not be afraid to be alone, Maxim! The God of Life will always be with you, all the places you go. He will also give you a good friend who will take care of you, will love you and help you on your way. Go on, be brave and comply your quest! You'll have a great mission, you will teach the people of Probopolo the Song of Life and bring hope to that cursed world.'

And saying so, Alistair, the guardian angel of Doggerland, taught Maxim the **Song of Life**.

CHAPTER XI – THE FAREWELL

After the meeting with Alistair at the Big Blue Lake, Maxim went to meet her friends in Harlewoods Castle. She found that those who had been exiled on the Forbidden Island had already been brought back to their homes, and everyone was rejoicing the return of the true king Gandra and of all their brothers and sisters that had been taken away from their homes.

Peace and happiness were restored in Doggerland!!



King Gandra had undone all the craziness that Madellia had committed in his place, and decided to celebrate a great feast in honor to the God of Life, for forgiving him for his big mistake and for allowing him to continue reigning on Doggerland.

When Maxim met with Fritz and her friends, she asked them to accompany her along with her children to the house in the forest, where the mirror was, but she did not tell them anything that had been said by Alistair. All she told them was that the God of Life had shown her how she could release Doggerland once and for all from the curse of Probopolo.

Arriving at the house of the forest, Maxim, along with her children, Fritz and her friends went to the oak tree where the mirror was. She explained them that it was necessary to return once more to Probopolo, and to speak with Comani. She asked them to wait for her and not to go after her, until she returns.

Then Maxim jumped into the mirror, decided to find Comani and take her once more back to Doggerland.



Once passed through the mirror, Maxim ran to the passage which gave access to the outside and headed toward the house of Comani.

Soon after, Maxim found Comani sitting in the front yard of her house and started barking, trying to get her attention. Comani saw Maxim on the other side of the gate and ran to the street where she was, following her to the passage back to the yard where the big oak tree was. Both, one after another, jumped into the mirror and returned to Doggerland.

When they came out of the mirror, Maxim told everyone about her encounter with the guardian angel at the lake and taught them the Song of Life.

All were impressed by the prophecy that Maxim had received from the God of Life by Alistair, and although they knew that Maxim would be fine with Comani, they were sorry to bid her farewell...

Oliver began to cry, but his brother Fritz Jr. comforted him and said:

- 'Don't worry about our Mom, Oliver! The God of Life knows what is best for us! And, remember, He is faithful!'

Then everyone said goodbye cheerfully to Maxim, encouraging her to fulfill her mission and meet the call of the God of Life.

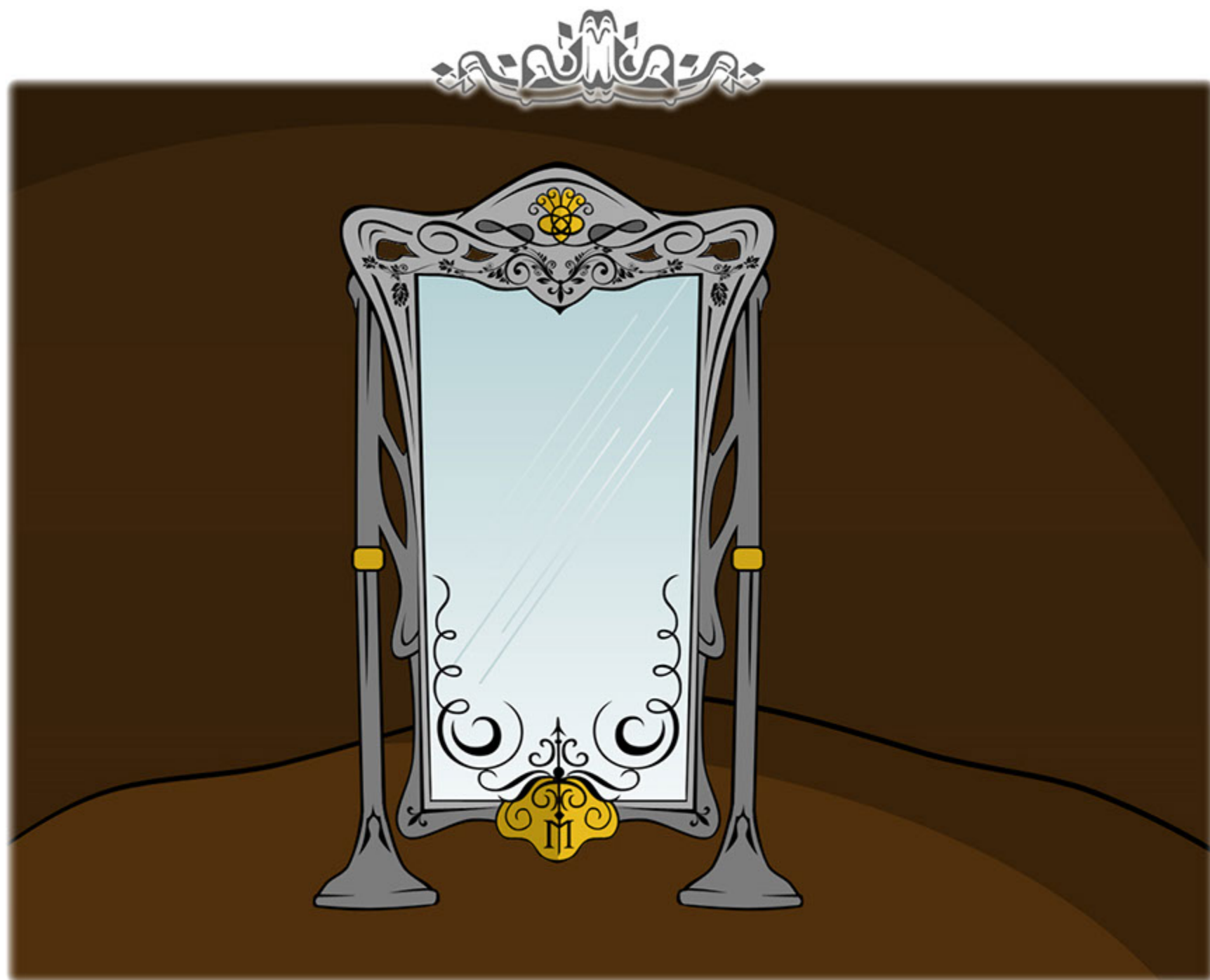


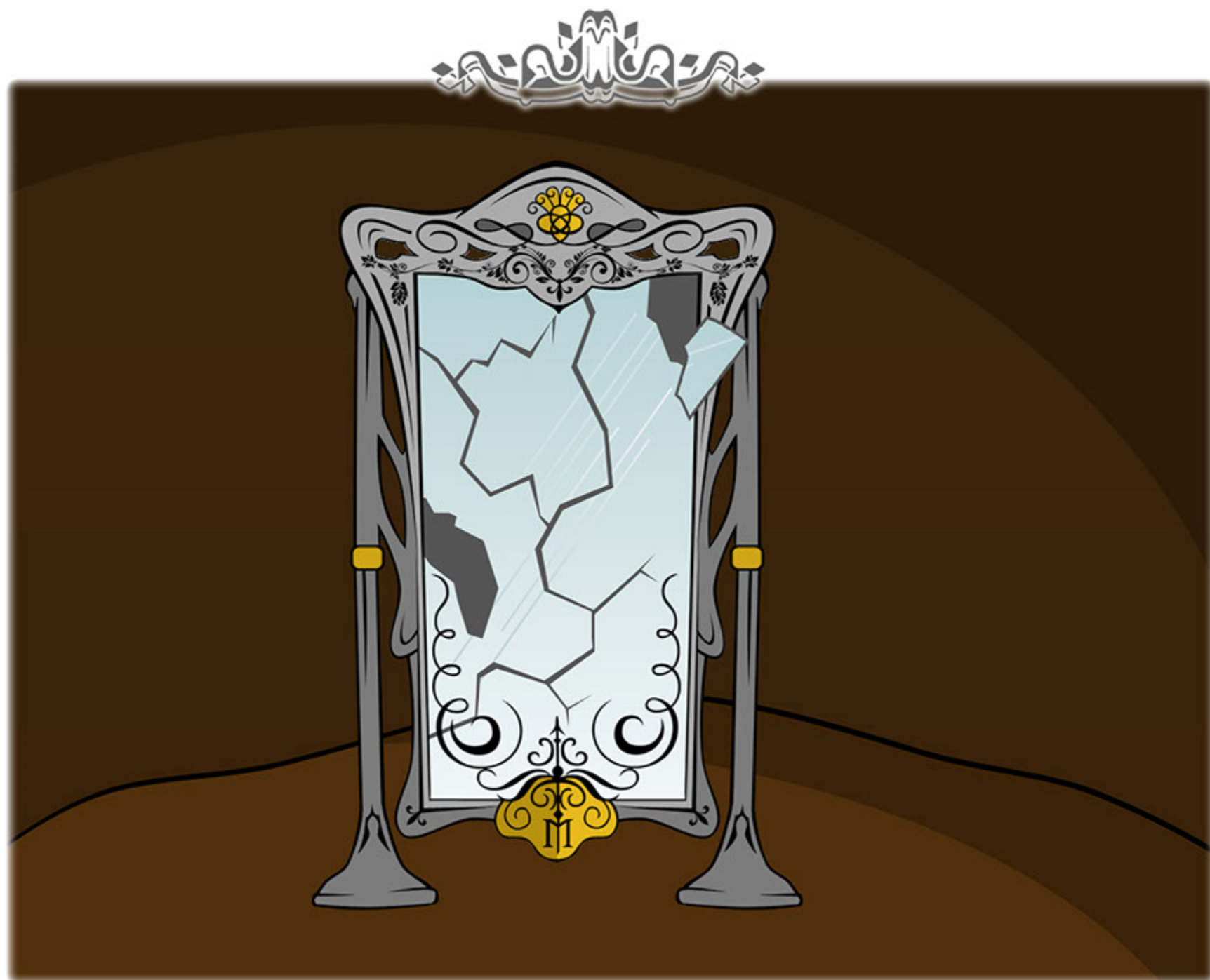
Maxim knew that she wouldn't be able to talk in Probopolo and suddenly was scared of going to a place where nobody could understand her, once she would not be able to speak up with her voice and in the language she used to speak in Doggerland.

However, Comani soon realized the concern of Maxim and explained to her about the language of the eyes.

- 'Maxim, don't worry, I'll be able to understand you through your eyes, and you through mine.'

Then Maxim and Comani went back through the magic mirror to Probopolo, determined to break it once and for all and to liberate the people of Doggerland from the evil presence of Mad-ellia and the curse of Probopolo!







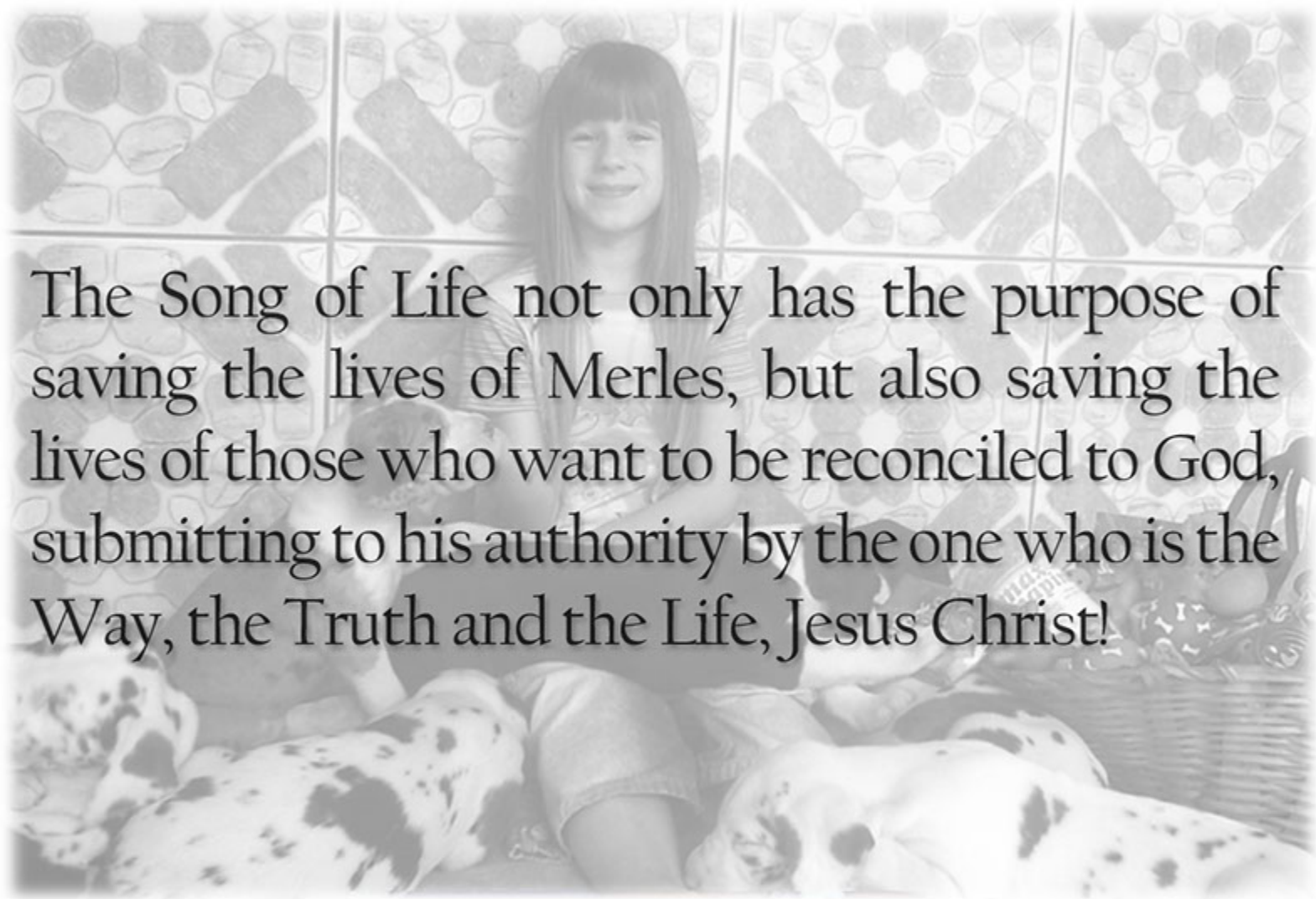
Maxim, the ambassadress of Doggerland is among us...
Would you sing the Song of Life with her?!





THE END





The Song of Life not only has the purpose of saving the lives of Merles, but also saving the lives of those who want to be reconciled to God, submitting to his authority by the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, Jesus Christ!

THE END





Some curiosities
about...



DOGGERRLAND

AND

THE
GREAT DANE





They are called Great Danes in English, but (...) “Germany, not Denmark, is his true home, and, since the Franco-prussian War, Germans have adopted him as their national breed, under the name of the **Deutsche Dogge.**”



See in: **The Great Dane - His Origin** - by E.D. Farrar
<http://chestofbooks.com/food/household/Woman-Encyclopaedia-2/The-Great-Dane.html>





Sources: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Doggerland_10,000_BP.jpg

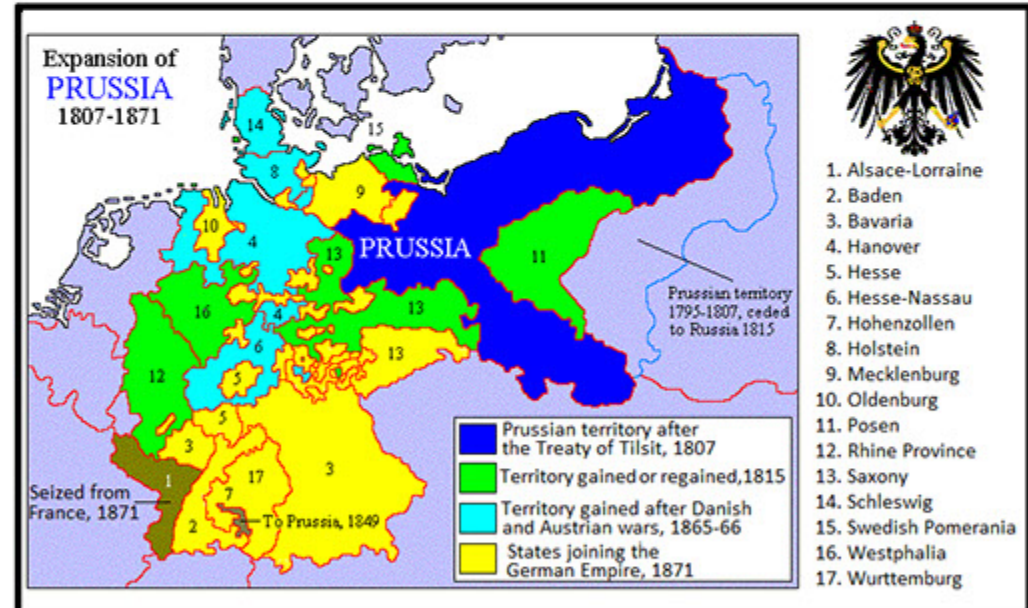
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Location_UK_EU_Europe.png





Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871

French Lancers and Cuirassiers guarding captured Bavarian soldiers



Sources: Wikipedia - The Free Encyclopedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franco-Prussian_War
www.histoire-image.org/pleincadre/index.php?c=allegorie&d=21&i=39
<http://withfriendship.com/user/kethan123/franco-prussian-war.php>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Prussia





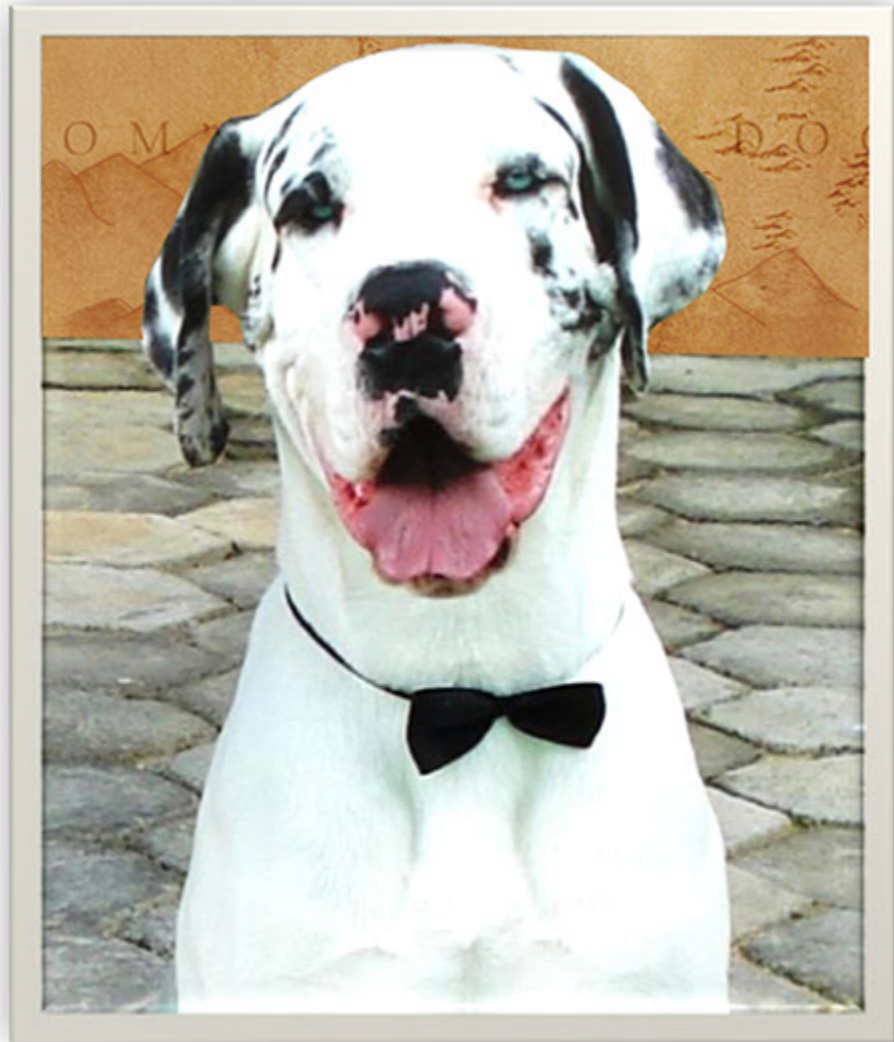
Mom, is it true
that Doggerland
has existed?

Maxim & Oliver



Well, son...
to find out,
you'll have
to ask
Comani and
Felipe!





Yeah...
Let's do that!





Yes, Doggerland has truly existed!!!





Sources: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Doggerland_10,000_BP.jpg

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6c/Location_UK_EU_Europe.png





The Lost Doggerland

“Doggerland is the name given to the vast area that until ten thousand years ago linked the British Isles with **Denmark** and **Northern Germany**, a time, Little Britain Eurosceptics please note, when the Thames was a tributary of the Rhine. Then the ices waned and the inhabited hills, plains, valleys and forests were flooded. I came across Doggerland listening to this fascinating BBC radio 4 documentary. It explores a land lost beneath the waves near Craster on the Northumbrian coast with the help of **archaeologists, locals and a storyteller** who tells a possible creation myth dating from the 10,000 years ago, as the lands were engulfed.”



Source: A Natural History of the British Isles - The lost Doggerland
July 29, 2009 | by Nick - <http://iberianature.com/britainnature/the-lost-doggerland/>





Map source: www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/txu-oclc-247233313-europe_pol_2008.jpg



Discovery and investigation by archaeologists

“Interest in the area was reinvigorated in the 1990s by the work of Prof. Bryony Coles, who named the area ‘Doggerland’ (‘after the great banks in the southern North Sea’) and produced a series of speculative maps of the area. Although she recognized that the current relief of the southern North Sea seabed is not a sound guide to the topography of Doggerland, the topography of the area has more recently begun to be reconstructed more authoritatively using seismic survey data obtained through petrochemical exploration surveys.”



See in: **Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doggerland>





Doggerland

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doggerland>





Doggerland Project

“Prof. Bryony Coles has been examining the archaeology of ‘Doggerland’, which now lies under the North Sea. Its highest point is the submerged Dogger Bank where prehistoric artifacts are occasionally found by fishermen and geologists. At the height of the last Ice Age, Doggerland was dry and stretched from the present east coast of Britain and the present coasts of The Netherlands, Denmark and North Germany.”



See in: University of Exeter / Archaeology - The Doggerland project

Link: https://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/title_89282_en.html





There are some pictures of prehistoric artifacts found in the study area, named Doggerland by Prof. Bryony Coles.

Here are a few links where you can see them:

- **ICR – Institute for Creation Research -**
www.icr.org/article/6929/

- **National Geographic – Searching for Doggerland**
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/12/doggerland/clark-photography#/05-bone-and-antler-arrowheads-670.jpg>





Could it be that the magic mirror has been found by archaeologists and geologists among the artifacts discovered in the region, where supposedly Doggerland had existed!?



About Great Danes...



Laio

Maxim's Best Friend





“A ‘gentle giant,’ the Great Dane is nothing short of majestic. Sometimes referred to as the ‘king of dogs,’ this extremely large dog breed is known for being strong yet elegant, with a friendly, energetic personality. Striking in the show ring, this breed is also popular as a family pet.”



See in: American Kennel Club – AKC MEET THE BREEDS®: Great Dane

www.akc.org/breeds/great_dane





CHRIS & ASLAN





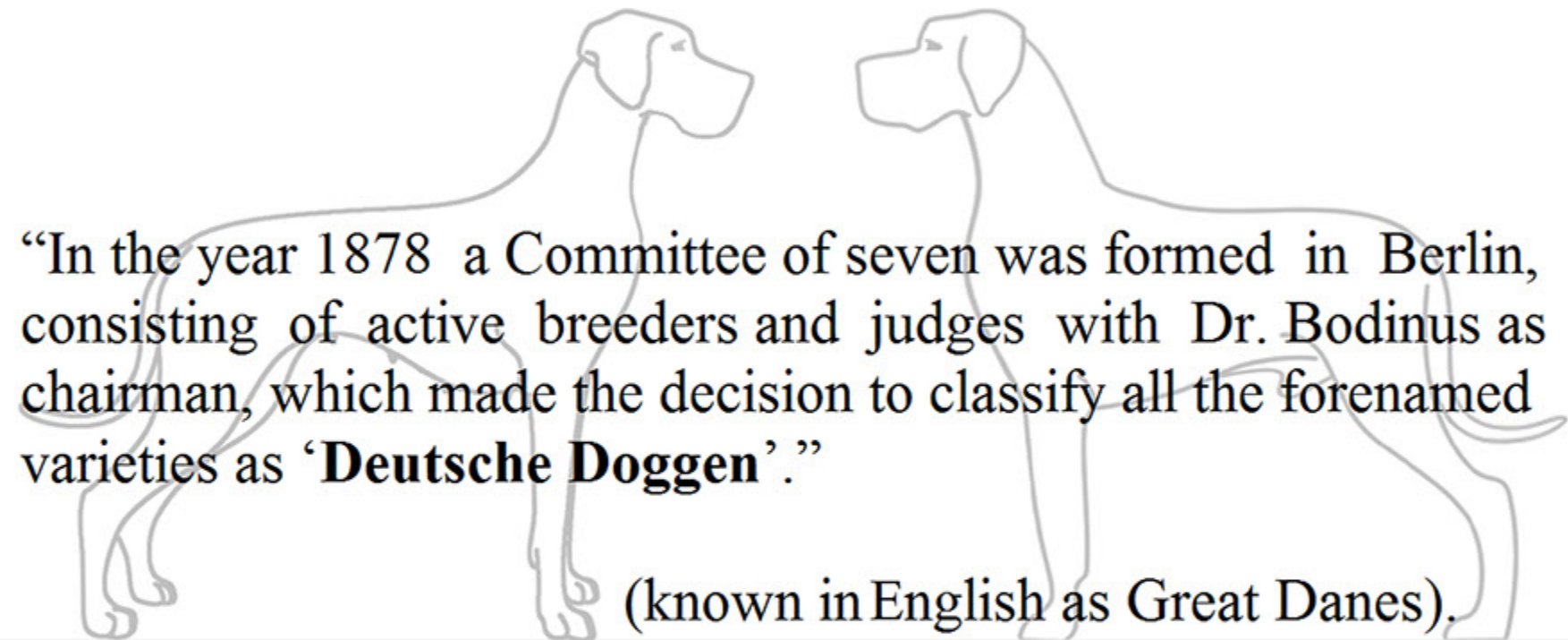
“**BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY** : (...)The term Dogge was at first understood to mean a large, powerful dog, not of any particular breed. Later, particular names such as Ulmer Dogge , English Dogge, Great Dane, Hatzrüde (Hunting Dog), Saupacker (boarfinder) and Grosse Dogge (Great Dogge), classified these dogs according to colour and size. (...)”



See in: **FCI-Standard N° 235 / 20.12.2012 / GB – Fédération Cynologique Internationale / Standards and Nomenclature /5.Germany / Deutsche Dogge (235)**

www.fci.be





“In the year 1878 a Committee of seven was formed in Berlin, consisting of active breeders and judges with Dr. Bodinus as chairman, which made the decision to classify all the forenamed varieties as ‘**Deutsche Doggen**’.”

(known in English as Great Danes).



See in: FCI-Standard N° 235 / 20.12.2012 / GB – Fédération Cynologique Internationale / Standards and Nomenclature / 5.Germany / Deutsche Dogge (235)

www.fci.be





“In the year 1880, on the occasion of a show in Berlin, the first standard for the Deutsche Dogge was laid down.

This standard has been taken care of since the year 1888 by the ‘Deutsche Doggen Club 1888 e.V.’ (German Doggen Club, registered Club 1888) and frequently been revised over the years.

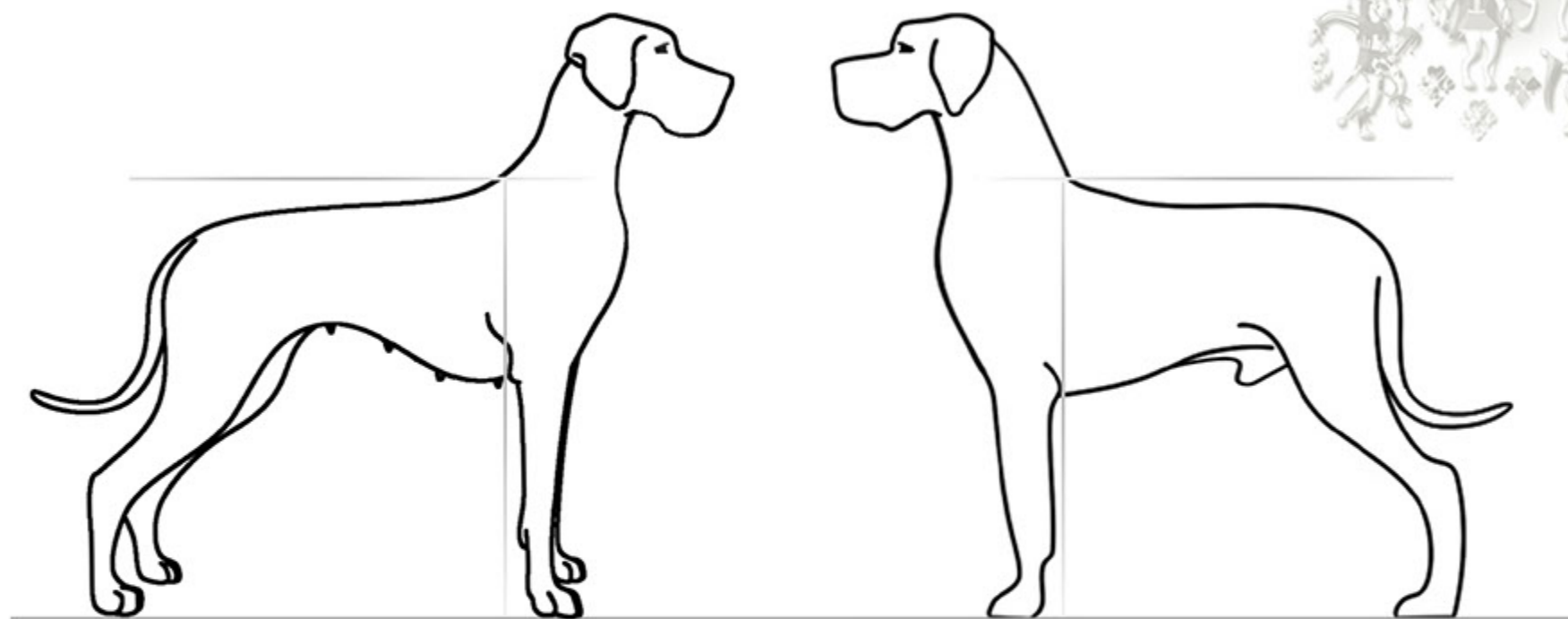
The present Standard meets the requirements of the F.C.I.”



FCI - Standard N° 235 / 20.12.2012 / GB - Fédération Cynologique Internationale /
Standards and Nomenclature / 5. Germany/ Deutsche Dogge (235) - www.fci.be
DDC - Deutscher Doggen Club 1888 e.V. - www.ddc1888.de



Size / FCI Standard



Height at the withers:



Females:
at least 72 cms, should
not exceed 84 cms.

Males:
at least 80 cms, should
not exceed 90 cms.



Size / AKC Standard

Height at the withers:



“The **female** shall not be less than 28 inches at the shoulders, but it is preferable that she be 30 inches or more, providing she is well proportioned to her height.”

“The **male** shall not be less than 30 inches at the shoulders, but it is preferable that he be 32 inches or more, providing he is well proportioned to his height.”

“Danes under minimum height must be disqualified.”





Average of the weights of today's "show" dogs:

Males - 68,00 kg (150 pounds)

Females - 54,00 kg (120 pounds)

Some danes can weigh up to or more than 90,00 kg (200 pounds)





The Royal Ring



- Harlewoods
- Golden Seasons
- Blue Valley

The Royal Ring





According to the FCI Standard (2012), the Great Dane is bred in three separate color varieties, represented in our story by the three provinces of Doggerland.

Whenever these three varieties are mixed with each other, that is, when a dane of one of the three varieties mates a dane from another variety, all sorts of **unusual** coat colors may appear in the offspring. Those coat patterns with white and fawn – blue – or brindle markings are also known as ‘Porcelain Danes’. - Basically, they are the result of mix color breedings. - In the official FCI Standard these coat patterns are considered disqualifying faults. Here you have a few samples of mix color breedings:

FAWN WITH
WHITE OR BLACK

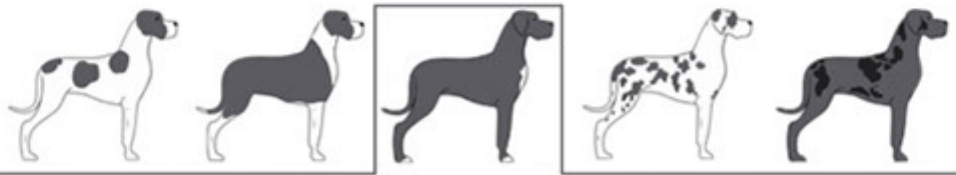


BRINDLE WITH
WHITE



BRINDLE WITH BLUE...
... FAWN WITH BLUE...
AND SO ON...

BLUE WITH
WHITE OR BLACK



Note: According to the FCI Standard, on blue danes white markings on chest and feet are permitted.

Some interesting facts about the Great Dane and its color patterns:

- Harlequins can produce Merles, as Merles can produce Harlequins;
- Just as harlequins can produce merles, merles can also produce harlequins, blacks, mantles and piebalds. All these color variations are part of the genetic heritage of this Great Dane variety;
- According to DDC breeding rules, harlequins should NOT be bred to other harlequins, neither merles to merles, nor harlequins to merles, since this breeding mates can often produce white puppies that are frequently deaf and/or blind;
- Due to the reasons above, HARLEQUINS or MERLES should only be bred to BLACKS or BLACK MANTLE Danes;
- To avoid non-standard colors and patterns in the bred, the DDC* breeding rules and the GDCA* Breeders Color Code are unanimous: BLACK from Blue breeding should not be bred in the Harlequin variety /color strain, whereas BLACK from Harlequin breeding should not be bred in the Blue breeding variety/color strain;
- Mantles can be bred to Harlequins without the risk of producing white puppies;
- A Mantle bred to another Mantle will not produce Harlequins;
- Mantles are strictly black and white, they cannot have any Merle markings or, otherwise, they should be considered a heavily marked Harlequin;
- When all the markings have rounded, well defined edges (spots) the Dane is most likely to be considered as a piebald, in opposition to a harlequin which has irregular, black torn patches;
- Harlequins sometimes can be so heavily marked that they look like a Mantle, with the only noticeable difference that they might have some merle patches somewhere throughout their bodies;
- Acceptable, but less desirable are gray or blue ticking hairs showing through the white base color in Harlequins, which tend to give a salt and pepper or sort of dirty effect;
- There are other breeds in which we find a Merle coat color, such as Collies, Australian Shepherds and Corgis;
- Danes with a coat color known as harlequin (white base with black torn patches) are often mistaken as Dalmatians by the general public. Great Danes are the only breed of dogs in which a typical harle color pattern occurs;
- A white Dane with MERLE patches should not be mistaken with a white Dane with blue or blue/grayish markings or patches, the latter being the result of cross breeding between different varieties, which are called "porcelain", such as other coat patterns resulting from color mix breeding (from different varieties) that have a white base color with fawn, brindle or blue patches and markings, also known as porcelain Danes;
- Most harlequins have some merle patches somewhere throughout their bodies.

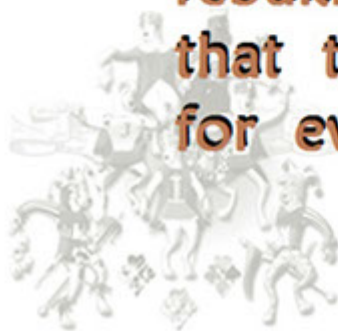
Note of the Author: We do not condone or support mix color breedings (between different varieties), due to the reason that there are many bad breeders all over the world that cull (euthanizing) healthy puppies whenever they don't have the desired patterns and colors. Just as Mad-ellia, they want to be like God, they want to decide over life and death.



God Rules

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2Timothy 3: 14-17)





Credits...

Oliver de Maxim's Dogue Brasil





Above all, we would like to express our gratitude and honor You, Lord and Savior, for giving us inspiration and guidance throughout this project.

Thank you Lord!



This work is dedicated to our very special families who supported us with their love, affection and prayers.

Thanks for all, we love you!

F	M	L	♥
Father	Mother	Love	
A	I	Y	
and	I (we)	You	



Oliver





Mom, thank you so much for showing and guiding me in the Way of Truth. You're super, "super Magda", I love you!





Meet the guys of the story!



Maxim & Monica



Laio & Felipe



“I, even I, am the Lord,
and apart from me there is no savior.
I have revealed and saved and
proclaimed—
I, and not some foreign god among you.
You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord,
“that I am God.
Yes, and from ancient days I am he.
No one can deliver out of my hand.
When I act, who can reverse it?”

Isaiah 43: 11-13



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www.maximsdogue.com



... to be continued ...





The Legend of
Maxim
and the curse of
Probopolo

