



Night Friend



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You have a

Night Friend





Sami is stuck in a horrible dream.

He can't get out of it.

The viruses in his dream look exactly as they do in real life.

They look like tiny, greasy balls.

The tiny greasy balls are as spiky as spiky worms.

Sami sees hundreds of them.

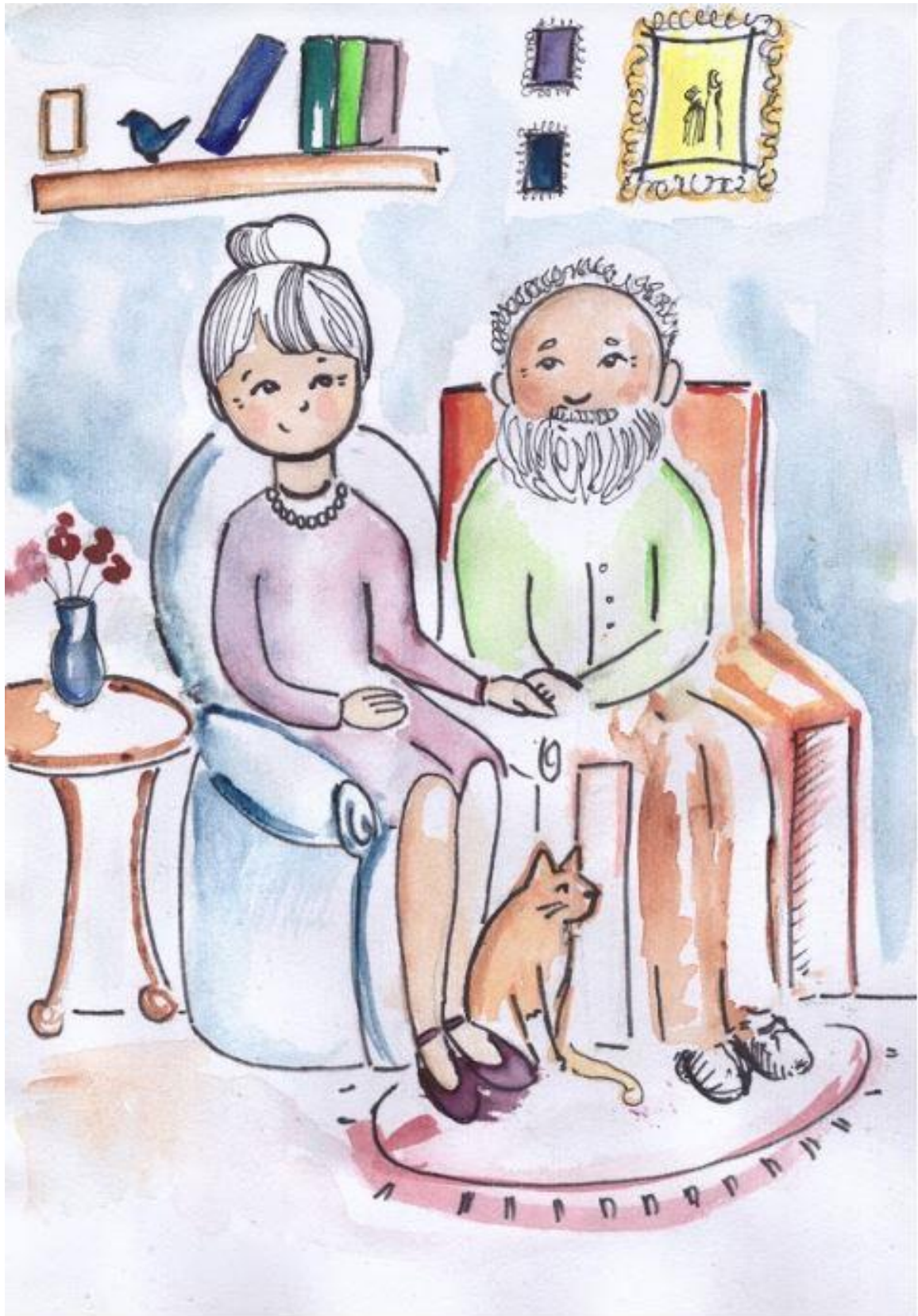
The viruses cling to Granddad's hands.

His grandfather must have touched something

on which there were lots of them.

"Jesus loves me! This I know,

For the Bible tells me so," sings Granddad.



In Sami's dream,
Granddad takes Granny's hand.

"Sing along, lovey," he says to her.
"Have you washed your hands, my darling?"
asks Granny.
"Cats lick and wash their paws,"
says Granddad.
"You know I am not a cat."

Now lots of viruses are clinging
to Granny's hand as well.
Granny is totally unaware of them,
because viruses are much smaller
than the smallest mustard seed.



“Achoo! Achoo!” sneezes Granddad.

“Stop it, itchy nose!”

Suppose there are hundreds of viruses
in the droplets from that sneeze?

Granddad cannot stop sneezing:

“Achoo! Achoo! Achooooo!”

It is a savage sound in Sami’s dream.

The droplets from the savage sneeze
end up on the tabletop and the chairs.

Many of them hit Granny in the face.

And Granddad

does not stop rubbing and touching his nose.



Viruses don't run or jump about.
They don't have legs, eyes, claws or mouths.
But how their spikes can buzz!
In Sami's dream, the buzzing of the spikes
sounds like jeering¹:

“Gotcha, old man!”

Granddad does not know
that lots of viruses
have come to stay.

The spikes are buzzing like mad:
“Sami, your granddad's body
has now become our home!”

¹ Jeering: as if the spikes are making fun of Sami's granddad.



Sami feels like screaming.

But he can't scream like he can when he is awake.

In school, everybody learnt about this kind of virus.

Covid-19 viruses have nasty spikes that hook themselves onto membranes.²

The membrane inside people's noses is an ideal hooking place for them.

In the cells of this membrane, there is something that Covid-19 viruses need to make more of themselves.

The viruses find their way into these cells and double themselves there!

These new viruses then make more of themselves in other cells.

Sami wants to jump out of bed but he is still asleep.

He just can't wake up.

Granddad has dumped viruses on Granny.

The membranes of their throats and lungs

will soon be full of lots of new Covid-19 viruses.



² Membrane: Thin, moist and smooth lining of the nose, throat, lungs, colon etc.



All of a sudden, ten children in Sami's school
have tested positive for Covid-19.

Some of them had a fever and coughed a lot.

The others did not look sick at all.

The school principal called this outbreak
a next wave.

Everybody had to stay at home again
and be good

as in March and April.

"All of you," the principal said, "know by now
that this nasty virus should not be spread,
especially not to old and frail and sick people.

Old and sick people

don't just cough and sneeze from this virus.

Some of them get very, very ill

when they get the virus from children like you."

This is what happened with Auntie Sarah.



Auntie Sarah had a food stall
on the other side of the wooden fence.
She sold yummy vetkoek and stew there.
Ben, her grandson, coughed a little.
He did not wear a mask.
There were Covid-19 viruses in those cough droplets.
Some of them hooked themselves
onto the membrane inside Auntie Sarah's nose.
Soon there were Covid-19 viruses in her lungs.
Auntie Sarah was ill for four days, then she died.
Ben no longer coughs
but he misses his granny day and night.



Look at Granddad with all those Covid-19 viruses in his nose!
The horrible dream goes on and on.

“Let’s sing some more,” says Granddad. “Till the moon comes up.”

Granny shakes her head.

“We don’t want to eat burnt food, do we?”

“Take the food off the fire,” laughs Granddad.

“It’s fried walkie talkies,” says Granny. “Aren’t you hungry?”

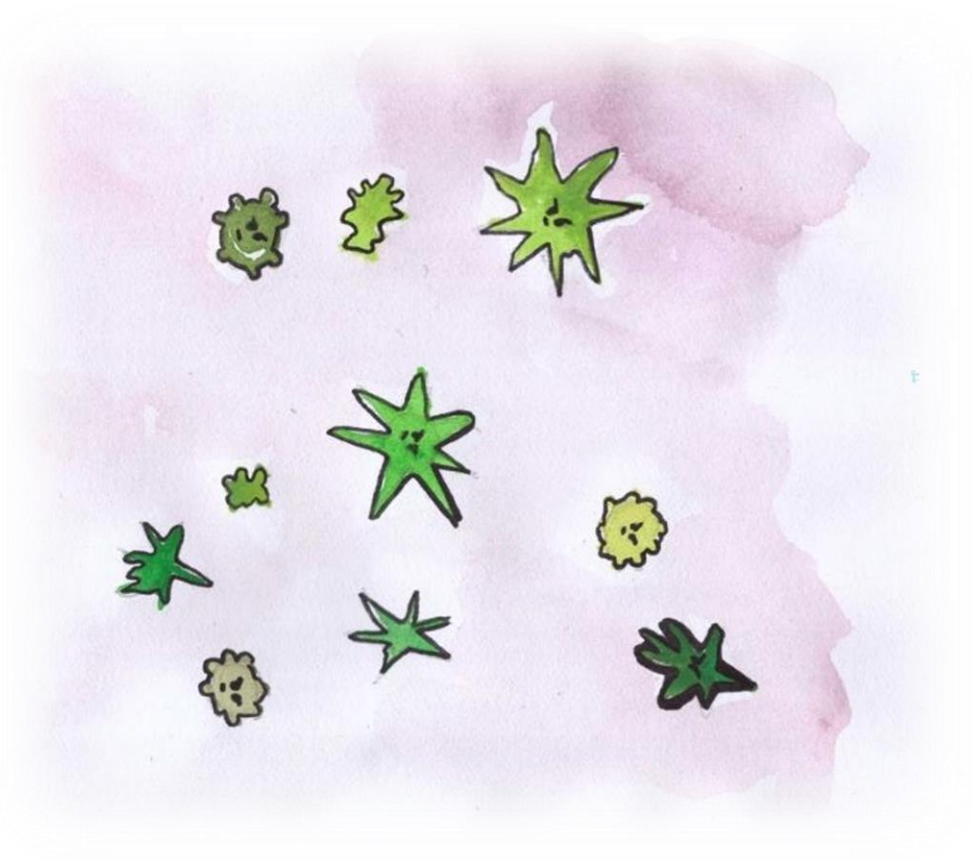
“Fried chicken feet? Really?” But Granddad shakes his head.

“Never mind the walkie talkies. I want to sing
till the moon is high in the sky.”

In the horrible dream, Granddad keeps on rubbing his nose.

“We must get rid of the gnats in this room,” he grumbles.

“My nose is all itchy!”



“Granddad! Granny!” shouts Sami.

But they do not hear him.

In the horrible dream, Granny puts a grilled walkie talkie into her mouth.

“It is hot in here,” says Granddad.

He opens the door.

It is a nightmare. The doorknob swells.

It becomes as big as a TV dish.

The enormous doorknob

is covered with Covid-19 viruses

from Granddad’s unwashed hands.

Oh, why does Granddad

refuse to wash his hands?

Why does he refuse

to sneeze in his elbow?

Someone must do something, thinks Sami.

In his dream, he tries to fly.

But he falls from the sky
and ends up with a broken toe.

Ow! Ow! Ouch!





In his dream, Sami tries to swim
but an iguana joins him
and Sami almost drowns.



In his dream, he tries to run.
But Cat-Cat is asleep on his legs.
Cat-Cat is
as heavy
as a huge
box full of
books.



In his dream, Sami tries to scream.

But a mouse pushes a hairy ball into his mouth.

Cat hair! Gross!

“Don’t scream, Sami,” scowls the mouse. “I am very, very cross.

Your granddad is singing a song that I don’t like.”

Sami’s granddad is singing a song about a mouse:

“Hickory Dickory Dock

The mouse went up the clock...”





In Sami's horrible dream,
the mouse's feet
are covered with viruses.

The mouse is angry with Granddad
because Granddad is singing
about mice.

The mouse smears Granddad with viruses.
He coughs and sneezes on Granddad.
The mouse is not at all sorry about it.
He does it on purpose.

“Help, Mommy, help!” cries Sami.

“Help! Help!”

Cat-Cat jumps off Sami’s legs.

Now Sami can move his legs again.

He kicks off his blanket.

Mommy comes rushing in.

“Sami? What’s the matter, Sami?”

Cat-Cat meows, growls and zooms past Mommy.

“Here I am!” says Mommy. “Here I am, my little boy.”

Mommy reaches for the solar lamp

on the crate next to his bed.

She switches on the light.

“Did you have a nightmare?” she asks.

Sami can hardly speak. “Granddad will get sick.

He does not wash his hands.

There were viruses on that nasty mouse...”

He can’t stop sobbing. “The nasty mouse

smearred Granddad with viruses!”

“Luckily it was only a dream,” she says.

“Everyone knows that mice

pinch pumpkin seeds

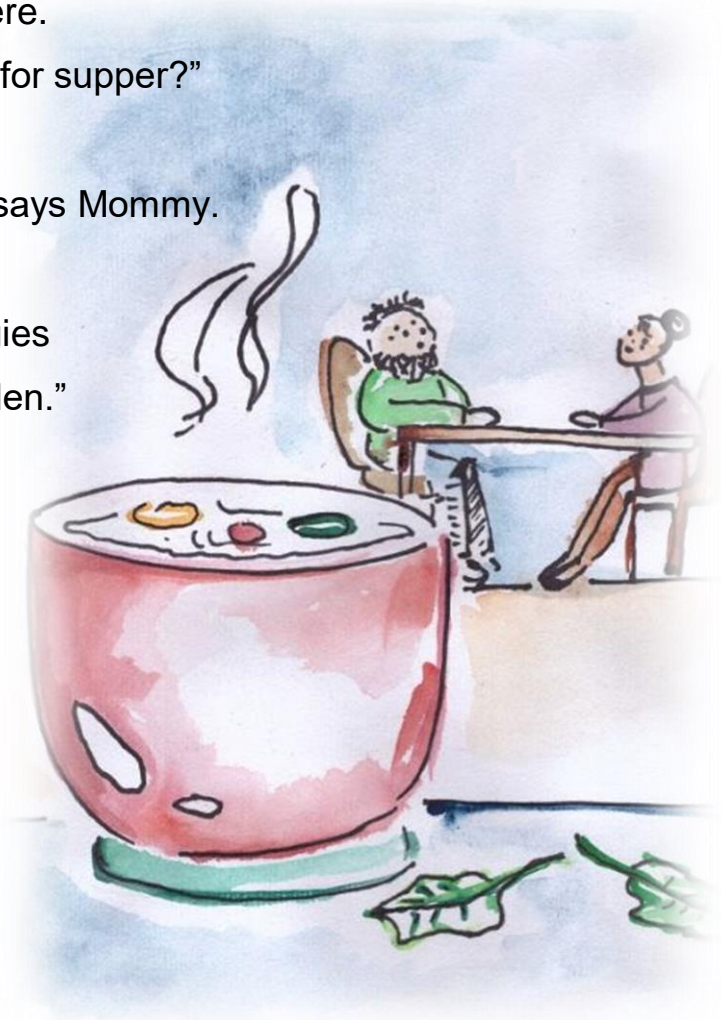
and almost anything we like.

But they certainly

don’t smear anybody with viruses!”



Mommy looks just as tired
as when she came home from work.
But she pulls Sami's blanket over both of them.
She draws him to her
and he feels like a chick
nestling under a hen's wing.
"That was a monster of a nightmare," she says.
Sami nods. "The Covid-19 viruses jeered at Granddad.
They yelled: '*Gotcha, old man!*'"
Mommy holds him tighter.
"Granddad called me on my cell phone just after sunset.
Everything is okay there.
Guess what they had for supper?"
"Soup, Mommy?"
"Yes, spinach soup!" says Mommy.
"With turnips in it.
And lots of other veggies
from Granddad's garden."





Sami hears his sister Luli spit out something. "Pfff!"

Mommy does not move.

"Let's surprise your sister," she whispers.

"Let's sing before she cries."

Sami begins to sing: "La-la, Lu-li, la-la!"

Mommy sings along: "Lu-li, la-la. La-la Lu-li!"

Luli gets quiet.

Then she laughs a baby laugh: "Guho! Guho!"

Luli always laughs like this
when Cat-Cat is playing with her.

Sami jumps up and runs to Luli's cot.

Cat-Cat is sitting there with her.

He is tickling Luli's cheek with his paw.

Mommy comes rushing after Sami.
She takes Cat-Cat out of Luli's cot.
"It's okay, Mom," says Sami.
"I'll take Cat-Cat back to my bed."
"Nope," says Mommy. "He's going to bother us.
He can now go hunting outside."
"Mommy," says Sami, "I'm scared when it's dark.
May Cat-Cat stay with me?"
"No," says Mommy. "We are all going to sleep now.
All night, until Daddy gets back from work."



•
Mommy opens the door and throws Cat-Cat out.

“Come on, Sami. Back to bed with you.”

Sami tries again.

"I am very scared when it's dark, Mommy."

“Then keep the light on. And think of nice things.”

"Like what, Mommy?"

Mommy sighs. "Anything!"

She looks very, very tired.

She reaches for the solar lamp

on the crate next to her and Daddy’s bed.

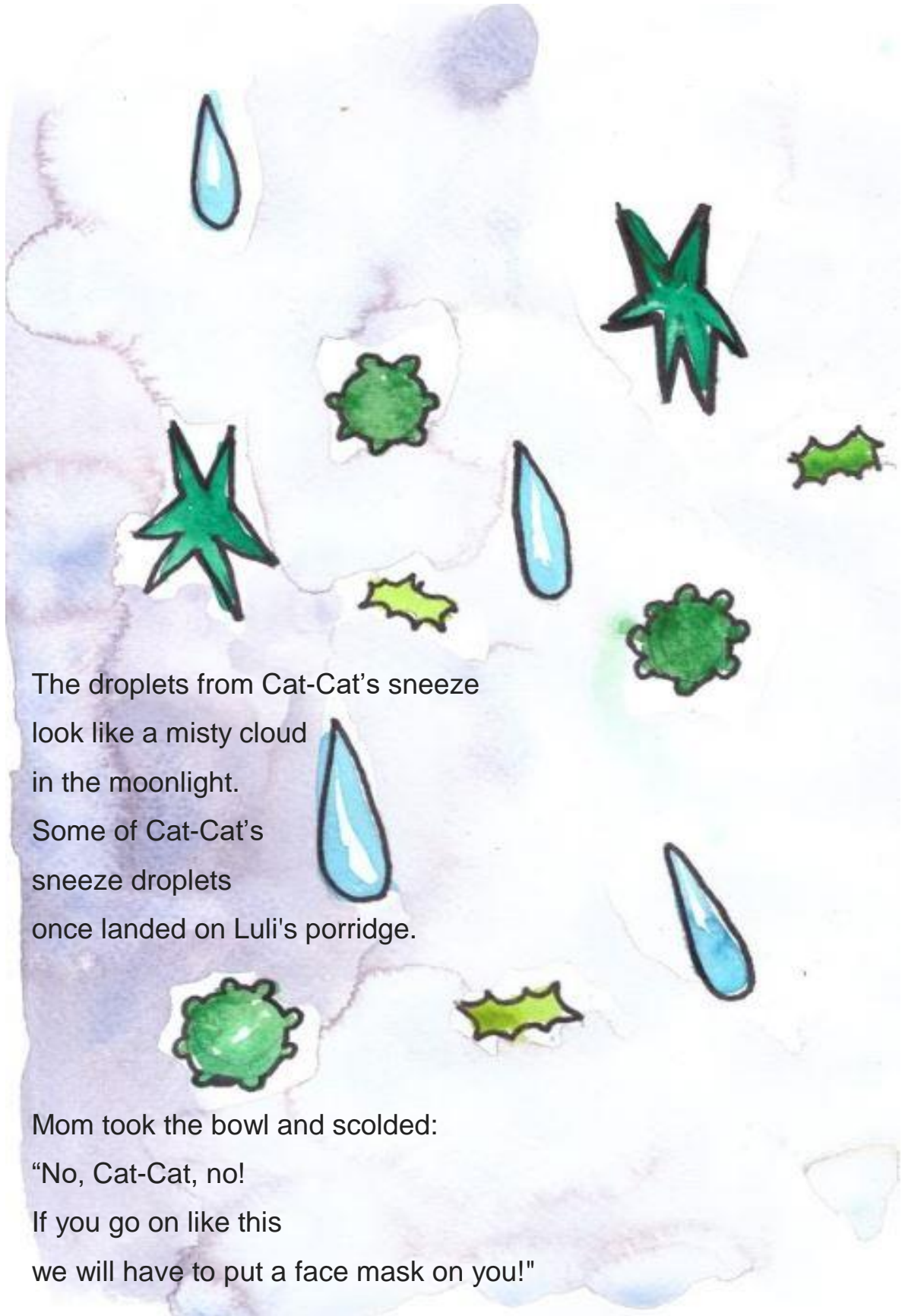
She switches off the light.

"Go to bed, Sami!"



Sami goes to his room.
He looks through the small window.
Cat-Cat is sitting
high up on the fence
right in front of the big yellow moon.
Swarms of bats are flying by.
They are having a bat party in the mango tree.
Cat-Cat is planning to catch one of them.

Cat-Cat, thinks Sami,
bats are not good food for you.
But before Sami can say,
“Don’t even try!”
Cat-Cat sneezes
a great big sneeze.



The droplets from Cat-Cat's sneeze look like a misty cloud in the moonlight. Some of Cat-Cat's sneeze droplets once landed on Luli's porridge.

Mom took the bowl and scolded:
"No, Cat-Cat, no!
If you go on like this
we will have to put a face mask on you!"

Mom says droplets are the problem
with this virus.

When children who are just a little sick are sneezing,
there are invisible viruses in their sneeze droplets.

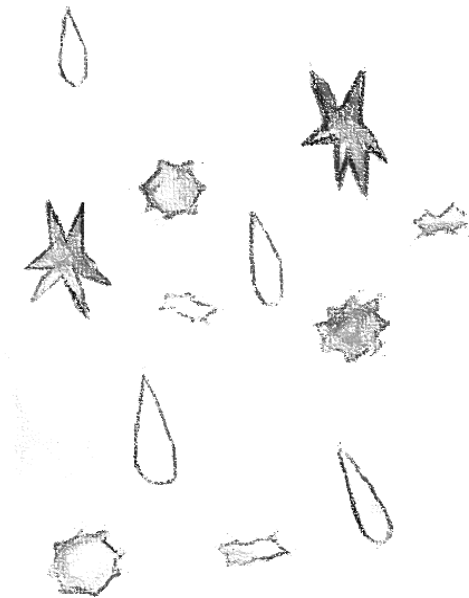
When children who are just a little sick are singing or talking,
there are viruses in their singing and talking droplets.

If they cough – even if it's just a small cough –
then droplets with viruses fly out of their mouths.

When these invisible viruses land on
doorknobs, keys and cell phones,
they can make people awfully sick.

So everyone should wear cloth masks
when mixing with people
outside their own homes.

Cat-Cat sneezes again
and suddenly he is gone.
He has jumped off the fence.
He is in Happy Field on
the other side of the fence.





Happy Field is where everyone always played soccer.

Happy Field is where the boys took wrestling lessons from Uncle Muscle-man.

Happy Field is where the dogs could romp and run.

Happy Field is where there used to be hundreds of stalls.

You could buy anything at the stalls:

mangoes and lychees,

combs and brushes,

rice and flour,

vetkoek,

koesisters and fried chicken feet,

cabbage rolls,

sweets and soft drinks,

soap and buckets,

handbags and purses,

clothes and shoes.

Happy Field is where Auntie Sarah sold vetkoek – the tastiest vetkoek in the whole world.

Now Happy Field is quiet again because everyone must stay at home so that the sick children in Sami's school can get well.

I'm angry at this stupid virus, Sami thinks.

I'm angry, angry, angry.

Only the mothers go to Happy Field now.

They wear face masks and come back soon.

Mommy goes on Tuesdays, when she does not clean the hospital floors and sinks.

She can no longer buy vetkoek.

Soft drinks cost too much now.

Mommy spends as little as possible, and everything has to last a long time.



Sami stares out of the window.
He longs for Happy Field the way it was.
He longs for fried chicken legs
and vetkoek
and Auntie Sarah.
He longs for soccer, wrestling
and his friends.
He has always been there for them
and they have always been there for him.
I'm angry at the stupid virus, Sami thinks.
And I'm scared.



His solar lamp goes out on the crate.

Everything is dark.

Everything *feels* dark.

Now, Sami thinks, it is that scary time
in the middle of the night.



Sami longs for Daddy
who has to keep people and places safe at night.
He wants Daddy to be
like he used to be.
When Dad comes home after work now, he says:
“Wait, wait, Sami! Daddy has to shower first.
Don't touch Daddy right now.”
Mommy says the same
when she comes home from work.



There is a hurting spot
right in the middle of Sami's chest.
The hurt is also about Granddad and Granny.
Sami longs for them.
His longing feels like a bruise
in the middle of his chest.

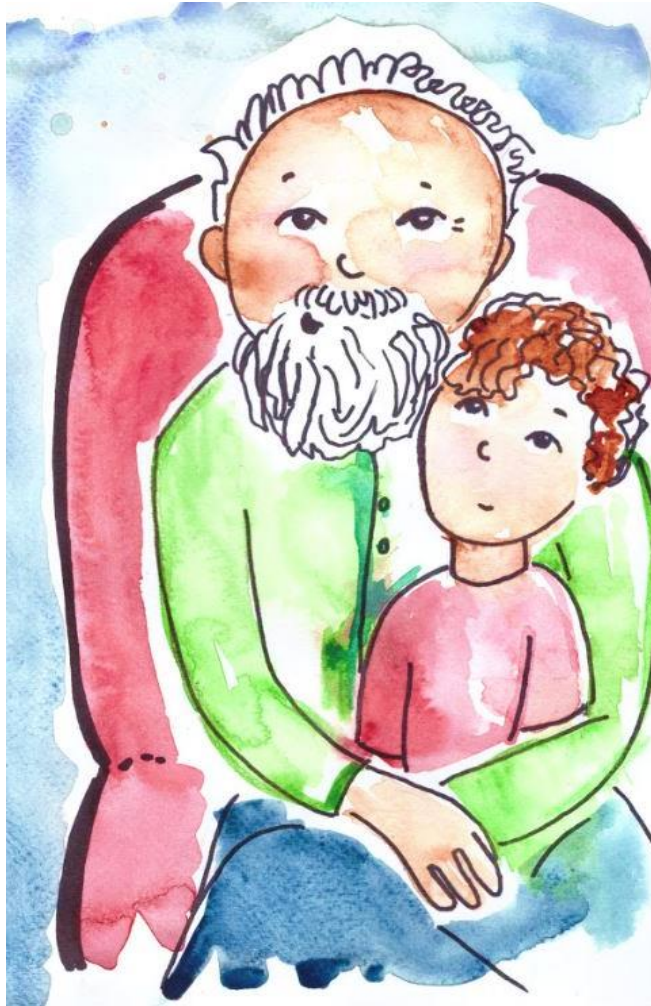
Everything is dark.
Everything *feels* dark.
Now, Sami thinks,
it is the time of loneliness
and sadness in the middle of the night.





Sami slowly climbs
back into his bed.
The moon disappears
behind a cloud.
Cat-Cat is out there
in the night
walking by himself.
Daddy is keeping
people and places safe.
That's his job.
Luli is sucking on
something.
Sami hears her.
Mommy rolls over and
over.
She can't sleep even
though she is very tired.

Sami hears her too.
Everything is dark.
Everything *feels* dark.
Sami thinks, this is my loneliest time
in the middle of the night.
He rolls over and over, just like Mommy.
Isn't it better to sit up again?
Mommy hears him.
"Sami," she says softly from her bed,
"think of one beautiful story you heard from Granddad, okay?
That will make you feel better."



Granddad's most beautiful story
is the story of the night friend,
Sami thinks in the dark.
He remembers sitting on Granddad's knee.
When Granddad tells a story,
one sits on his knee.
Granddad's night friend story was great.
Sami puts his arms around his pillow.
It feels warm like Granddad's body.
It is as if he is listening to Granddad's voice
telling him the story in the pitch-dark night:

“Sami, my boy, once upon a time,
thousands of people in our country
came down with the flu.

“A little boy named Jos
had to keep the fire burning in their old stove.

Jos had to cook soup
and porridge.

He had to wash
the dirty clothes,

clean the house

and care for all the

animals

on his mother's farm.

Jos's mother, a widow.

was ill with the flu.

His five sisters

got the flu from one
another

and all of them were
very, very ill.



“Little Jos put wet rags on his mother’s forehead to break her fever.

He brought water and soup for his sisters.

Jos's dog wanted his porridge and gravy.

The chickens and geese ran after him whenever he was outside.

The hand-fed lambs bleated for their bottles of milk.

The goats were hungry all the time.

The donkeys needed food and water.



“Now let Grandpa tell you, Sami, little Jos worked as hard as six grown-ups. Jos patted and stroked the hungry animals. ‘Calm down, all of you. I’ll take care of you. Calm down, okay?’ The animals calmed down when Jos talked to them so lovingly. They could trust him. Jos fed every single one of them. He knew every animal’s name and took care of each of them. He cared for them almost as well as Noah did when he had to care for lots and lots of animals in the ark.



“But, Sami, my boy, one night it was bitterly cold.

It was a grim and gloomy night.

Jos's mommy and sisters coughed non-stop.

The house smelled of fever.



“The moon slipped behind the clouds.
Everything was cold and dark.
Jos went out to see if all the animals were okay.
Some were not okay at all.

One tiny baby goat was numb with cold.
Jos wrapped the baby goat in a blanket
and sat with him in front of the stove.
He held the kid tightly
and rubbed his
legs and back.

After a long time
the kid raised his
little head
and tried to bleat.





"Jos poured goat's milk into a bottle
but the baby goat would not drink.
His neck turned limp again.
The fire in the stove
had almost burned itself out.
The candle on the table was burning low.
Then, Sami, my boy, the candle flame died
and all was pitch-dark for little Jos.

Jos began to cry.
He cried about his sick mother,
his sick sisters,
the limp baby goat,
the burnt-out fire,
and the yellow candle flame
that made him feel safer.

He wept because he was alone and scared.
Jos had forgotten
that God the Father always helps His children,
especially when they are scared,
when they feel alone,
and if everything is wrong.
Jos had forgotten
how much God loves children, Sami, my boy.



“Then Jos looked up and saw a boy with a lamp coming in at the door.

‘What is the matter with the baby goat?’ asked the boy. And Jos told him everything. The boy put his lamp down on the table.

Everything felt better in the light.

The boy smiled kindly and said:

‘Let me teach you two basic skills for a kid

that won’t drink from a bottle.

May I use this dishcloth?’

He took a dishcloth and folded it in double, and double again.

Then he said to Jos,

‘Hand me the bottle, partner.

Cover the kid’s eyes with the dishcloth, please.’

The boy held the bottle above the baby goat’s nose.

‘Now he smells the milk,’ he nodded at Jos.

‘Tap him lightly on his tail. Keep on tapping.’

Jos did not understand

why he had to keep on tapping.

The boy helped him understand.

“Every mother goat taps the tail of her baby goat.

It makes the kid feel safe.

Then it drinks its mother’s milk.’

Jos's kid raised its head. It wanted some milk!

The boy made the baby goat suck on his finger.

‘It will drink now,’ he told Jos.

‘Good for you, kid, good for you.

Here's your bottle. Drink as much as you want.’

Jos wanted to take off the dishcloth

but the boy stopped him.

‘No. It must have the

feeling

of being right under the
mother’s tummy.

It is fleecy and cool
there.

Keep tapping the kid on
its tail, okay?’

The baby goat
had its fill.

Then it fell asleep.

Jos laid it down
on a pillow.



.Granddad put Sami on his other knee.
Then he went on with the story:

“With the baby goat happily asleep,
Jos said to the boy: ‘You are my hero.
Wow. You are super smart!’



“The boy looked embarrassed³.

‘I’m not a hero. I’m just a shepherd. And you?’

‘I want to become a shepherd, like you,’ Jos said shyly.

‘But I have to finish school first.’

The boy smiled.

‘What is your name, young man?’

‘Jos. But my teachers call me *Yousif*. Or *Yusuf*. Or *Joseph*.’

The boy grinned. ‘I am David.

I have older brothers and sisters.

I am the last-born, the youngest.

Do you have brothers and sisters, Jos?’

Jos thought of his sick mother and sisters. ‘Yes, I have five sisters. And a mother. But all of them are very sick now.’



³ Embarrassed = shy.



In the middle of the story,
Sami's grandfather had a cup of coffee.
Sami wanted to hear more, but he had to wait.
Grandma came to fetch the coffee cup.
"Where did I stop, Sami?" asked Granddad.
"You stopped where Jos told David
that everyone was sick, Granddad."
"Spot on," said his grandfather. "Thank you, Sami.
Now you'll hear
about the place
that David feared most."

Sami's grandfather went on with the story again.

“All was well with the baby goat on the pillow.

David sat on the floor with Jos.

Then he asked Jos the same question
three times in a row:

‘Are you *okay*, my friend?’

‘Are *you* okay, my little friend?’

‘Are you okay, my dear little friend?’”

Jos burst into tears.

‘I am not okay! I'm scared
and alone.’





David took Jos's hand in his.

'Sometimes I feel like that too, my friend.'

Jos did not believe him.

'But you are super smart, David! You know everything!'

'No, I don't,' David said.

'For a long, long time I did not know

how to stop shivering and trembling.

Does that sound super smart to you?'

Jos stared at David. 'What made you shiver and tremble, David?'

David whispered his secret to Jos:

'I shiver and tremble when I'm scared.'

Then he told Jos about his life in the fields.

'I make sure all my dad's sheep have enough to eat.

The lambs need green grass. I take them there.

I take them to drinking places

where the water is clear and clean.

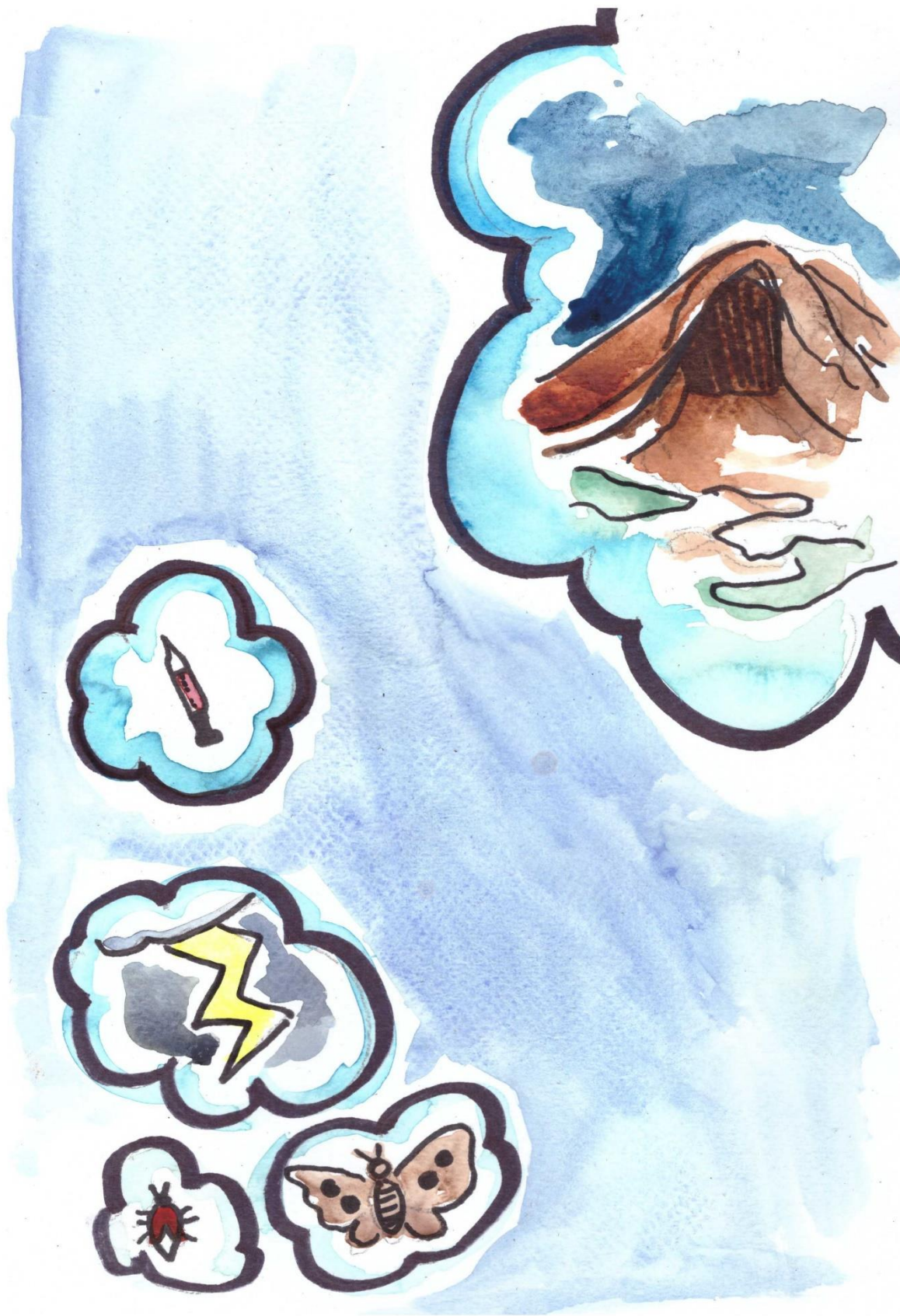
Our sheep drink there, Jos.'



“When our sheep need to rest,
I sit with them,’ David told Jos.
‘Some dangerous animals are always near -
bears, wolves and lions.
They want to catch the sheep.’
‘How do you keep them all safe?’
Jos wanted to know.

‘If a lion or a bear comes
and takes a lamb from the flock,
I go out after him
and grab the lamb from him,’ David said.
‘Sometimes I have to grab a lion by the beard
and kill him.’

Jos’s mouth dropped open. At last he said:
‘You are fearless, David!
Nothing will ever make you shiver and tremble!’



Granddad was holding Sami tightly
when he told him this part of the story.
“Jos was wrong, Sami.
You know that.
Everybody gets scared of something.”

Sami agreed.
"I tremble and shiver a lot, Granddad.
I am afraid of lightning.
And injections.
And poisonous bugs.”

“Your Granny is afraid of moths!”
Granddad said.

They laughed together.

Then his grandfather
went on with the story again.

“David told Jos
what he feared most.
What do you think he feared, Sami?”

Sami had no idea what it could be.
"What did David fear, Granddad?"



“David told Jos
that he feared
the valley of deep shade and shadows.
He often had to lead the sheep through that dark
and dangerous place.

David said to Jos: ‘My friend, the sun never shines
in that deep valley.
In that valley, I am always all by myself.
I shiver and tremble there.’

Jos thought of a plan:
‘Why don’t you take another path with the sheep, David?
That’s what I would have done.’

‘There is no other path,’ David replied.
‘I *have* to go through that dark valley.’
‘I would have given up,’ Jos said.
‘How do you do keep going, David?’

David told him: ‘I carry the weak lambs.
I walk as fast as I can.
I hit the rocks with a stick.
I pray, Jos. I pray to the LORD God.’
‘Does it help to pray?’
Jos really wanted to know.



Granddad told the best part of the story
so beautifully
that Sami could almost hear the sound
of David's answer:

“Jos, you asked me if anything happens
when we pray.

Yes, yes, yes, Jos!

The LORD God can do much more
than we can even imagine!

One day as I was praying, I heard a voice.

Someone was saying to me:

David, you are such a good shepherd.

You love your father's sheep and goats.

But remember:

I, the LORD, am your shepherd.

I, the LORD, love you more

than you love the sheep in your care.

I, the LORD, keep watch over you.

I protect you better

than you protect the lambs in your care.

'The light of the LORD God

shone in that dark valley.

The words of the LORD God

made all the shivering

and all the trembling go away.



The LORD God said:

*David, you make sure
that your sheep and goats
have everything they need.
I, the LORD, will do more for you.*

*David, you take your sheep to soft green grass
and to springs where the water is clear.
When you are with your sheep,
They do not have to be afraid of anything.*

*But I, the LORD, will give you
even better things than green grass
and earthly water.
I am God. I am with you.
You don't have to be afraid of anything.
I, the LORD, will always guide you.*

*David, when you are afraid,
you can trust Me even more
than the sheep and goats trust you.
I am the LORD, David. I am your Friend.
I shall always be there for you.*



Granddad told Sami
the very last part of the story:

“David took his lamp
to go to his sheep again.
But before he left, he asked:
‘Do you love the LORD, Jos?’
‘I do,’ Jos said. ‘One day in the future
I will see Him.
I can’t see Him now.
but I love Him very much.’

David hugged Jos tightly.
‘Jos, the LORD is your Shepherd too.
He is the mighty Shepherd
of all who love Him.
He is the true Friend
of every child who prays to Him.
The LORD our Shepherd is always there for us,
every day and every night.
He is your Night Friend and your Day Friend.’”

Granddad took Sami off his knee.
"Sami, my boy, when Jos looked again,
David was far off already.
His little lamp was just a tiny, yellow spot
in the dark night.
Jos's sister called from the room:
'Whose voice was that Jos?'
'It was my night friend's voice,' Jos said.
Jos's mother lit the lamp next to her bed.
The room was filled with yellow light.
Everyone looked better.
Jos told them about his night friend.
He told them about David the shepherd.

He told them about the LORD God,
who is the Friend of all who love Him.

Jos said to them:
'Our mighty Friend is
with us always,
night and day.
He makes all our fears
go away.'"





Granddad had told the Night Friend story to Sami only two days before the first Covid-19 lockdown. Two days before Happy Field had become so quiet, Sami and Granddad had sung David's song together:
*"The LORD is my shepherd;
I have everything I need."*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qak_45mnZE0



Granny, Mommy and Daddy had joined them.

David's song made them happy.

When it got late, they said goodbye
to Granddad and Granny.

But still Sami couldn't stop singing.

He sang David's song one last time:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qak_45mnZE0

Sami sings David's song.

"The LORD is my Shepherd!"

He does not want to stop singing.

He can't stop singing!

"Sami, Sami!"

His daddy is calling his name.

"You are singing so nicely, Sami
but you have to wake up now."

Sami hears his mother's voice:

"Tickle him, Luli."

Luli laughs a baby laugh: "Guho! Guho!"

Sami opens his eyes.

It is a new day. Sunlight falls through the window.

He has been dreaming of Granddad's story
the whole night long.

He has been singing in his dream.

The light of the Lord

has been in his dream.

The light of the LORD

has been brighter

than the light of the sun.

Everything has been warm
and good.

The LORD has been there for him.

He has not felt alone at all.

The LORD

has taken all his fears away!





"Get up, Sami!" says Mommy.

"Come help me fix the food basket
on the bicycle carrier."

Sami jumps out of bed.

"Are you going to Happy Field, Mommy?"

"No," says Mommy.

"This morning we have lots of food
so I am going to hand out food parcels
on my way to work."



Daddy's boss has given him
bags full of flour and beans.
Daddy has come home
with so many bags of food
that hungry people can get some too.
Mommy no longer looks tired.
She is glad she has food to give away.



Sami carries the bags to Mommy's bicycle.
Cat-Cat runs after him.
Cat-Cat smells at the bags
and pulls up his nose.
He prefers bats.
Sami laughs. "Get out of the way, Cat-Cat!"
He fixes the basket onto the carrier for Mommy.
The LORD is our Shepherd, Sami thinks.
We have all we need.



“Let's pray together
before I go to work,” says Mommy.
They sit down on Sami's bed – he and
Daddy and Mommy, with Cat-Cat and Luli in the middle.

Daddy thanks the LORD
for being their Good Shepherd.

"The LORD is our Night Friend too," Sami says.
"Where the LORD is, all fear goes away."

They sing David's song.
It is forever their song too:

The LORD is my Shepherd!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qak_45mnZE0



Mommy goes to work,
dropping food parcels along the way.
Daddy washes the dishes.
Then he goes to bed.
He falls asleep quickly.
Luli crawls around.
Cat-Cat goes to sit on the fence
and Sami's grandfather calls.
"Granddad," Sami says to him,
"will you please wash your hands often?
And, Granddad, Jesus is our Night Friend!"

Psalm 23:1-6. ⁴

- 1 (A psalm by David.) You, LORD, are my shepherd. I will never be in need.
- 2 You let me rest in fields of green grass. You lead me to streams of peaceful water,
- 3 and You refresh my life. You are true to Your name, and You lead me along the right paths.
- 4 I may walk through valleys as dark as death, but I won't be afraid. You are with me, and Your shepherd's rod makes me feel safe.
- 5 You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch. You honor me as Your guest, and You fill my cup until it overflows.
- 6 Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in Your house, LORD.

Psalm 23:1-6 ⁵

- 1 A Psalm. Of David. The Lord takes care of me as His sheep; I will not be without any good thing.
- 2 He makes a resting-place for me in the green fields: He is my guide by the quiet waters.
- 3 He gives new life to my soul: He is my guide in the ways of righteousness because of His name.
- 4 Yes, though I go through the valley of deep shade, I will have no fear of evil; for You are with me, Your rod and Your support are my comfort.
- 5 You make ready a table for me in front of my haters: You put oil on my head; my cup is overflowing.
- 6 Truly, blessing and mercy will be with me all the days of my life; and I will have a place in the house of the Lord all my days.

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⁴ CEV. Contemporary English Version.

⁵ BBE. Bible in Basic English. 1965

