

Once upon a time there lived a people, a people much like you and I, who were blessed with a bounty of children. Among them, there were born several baby girls with whom our story begins.



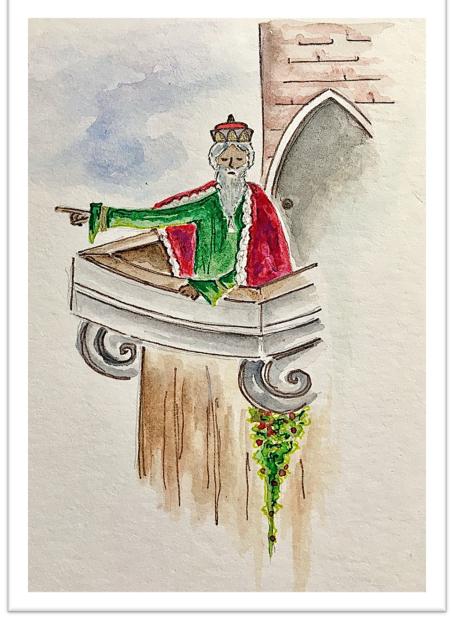
ַן יָהִי כִּי־הֵחֵל הָאָדָם לָרֹב עַל־פָּנֵי הָאָדָמָה וּבְנוֹת יֵלְדוּ לָהֶם:



Years went by and men from the neighbouring magical kingdom saw how beautiful the girls had become. Undoubtedly thanks to the men's angelic countenances, they succeeded in their bids for marriage. Wedding bells filled the city.



וַיִּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֶלֹהִים אֶת־בְּנוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נְשִׁים מִכֹּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחְרוּ:

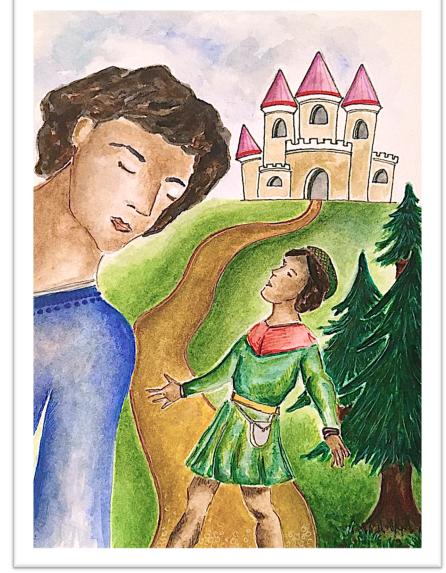


But the people's king was not happy: the suitors had not asked his permission to marry the women. Once news of these unlawful unions had reached him, the king gave a public decree. He warned, "any children of these marriages are hereby banished from the realm". Without the spirit of the kingdom to support them, he hoped that the children would become weak and die before their 120th birthdays (which in those days of old, was a harsh fate to any).

וַיּאֹמֶר יָהוָה לְאֹ־יָדוֹן רוּחִי בָאָדָם לְעֹלָם בְּשַׁגַם הוּא בָשָׂר וְהִיוּ יָמְיו מֵאָה וְעָשָׂרִים שָׁנְה:



The children of the dishonourable unions, now unprotected, left the kingdom. As luck would have it however, they met with a group of mighty giants, themselves fallen creatures banished from the kingdom years before, who offered them a new home. The children had heard stories of these giants, the so-called Nephilim, and so chose to stay with them.



הַגְּפָלִים הָיוּ בָאָרֶץ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם וְגַם אָחֲרִי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְּנֵי הְאֶלֹהִים אֶל־בְּנוֹת הָאָדָם וְיָלְדוּ לָהֶם הֵמָּה הַגִּבֹּרִים אֲשֶׁר מֵעוֹלָם אַנְשֵׁי הַשֵּׁם: פ



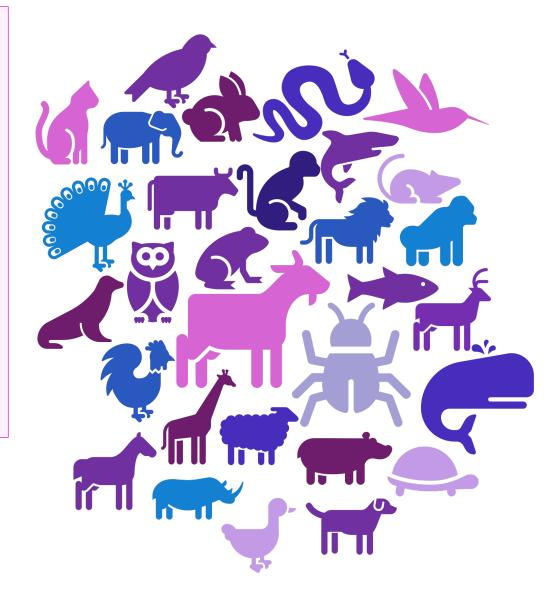
However, when the king heard of the children's settlement with the giants, he grew angrier than ever. He saw that the wickedness of the realm was great and that its people had gone against everything his kingdom stood for.

וַיַּרָא יְהנָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וְכָל וַיַּרָא יְהנָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וְכָל ־יֵצֶר מַחְשְׁבֹת לִבּוֹ רַק רַע כָּל־הַיְּוֹם:

The king regretted leading such a corrupt people. He had loved his nation once and so it pained his heart greatly to see them like this.

וַיִּנְּחֶם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הְאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וַיִּתְעַצֵּב אֶל־לִבְּוֹ: Feeling responsible for so much depravity, he knew what he had to do. He admitted to himself that he must destroy the kingdom, the settlement, and all the creatures that lived there. He was sorry for fashioning such a wicked people.

וַיּאֹמֶר יְהוָה אָמְחָה אָת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־בָּרָאתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי הָאָדָמָה מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רָמֶשׁ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשְּׁמָיִם כִּי נִחַמְתִּי כִּי עֲשִׂיתָם



But there was one man who still enjoyed the king's favour.
His name was Noah.

וְנֹחַ מְצָא חֵן בְּעֵינֵי יִהוָה: פ

