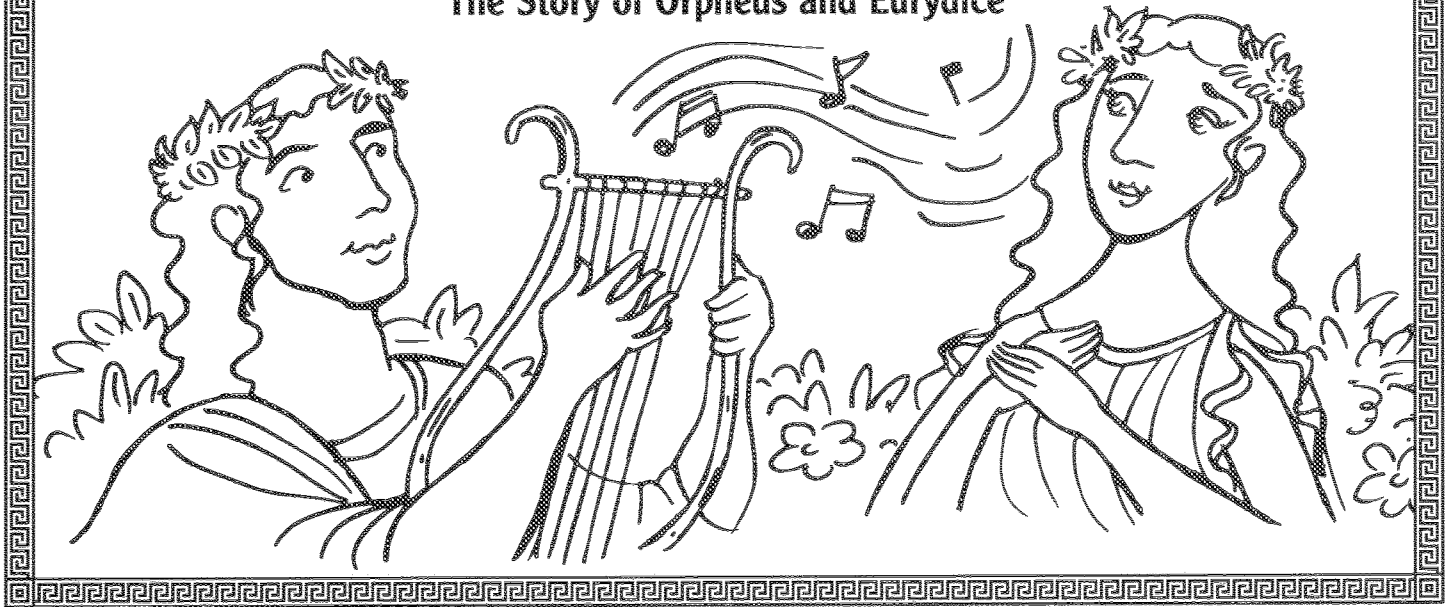
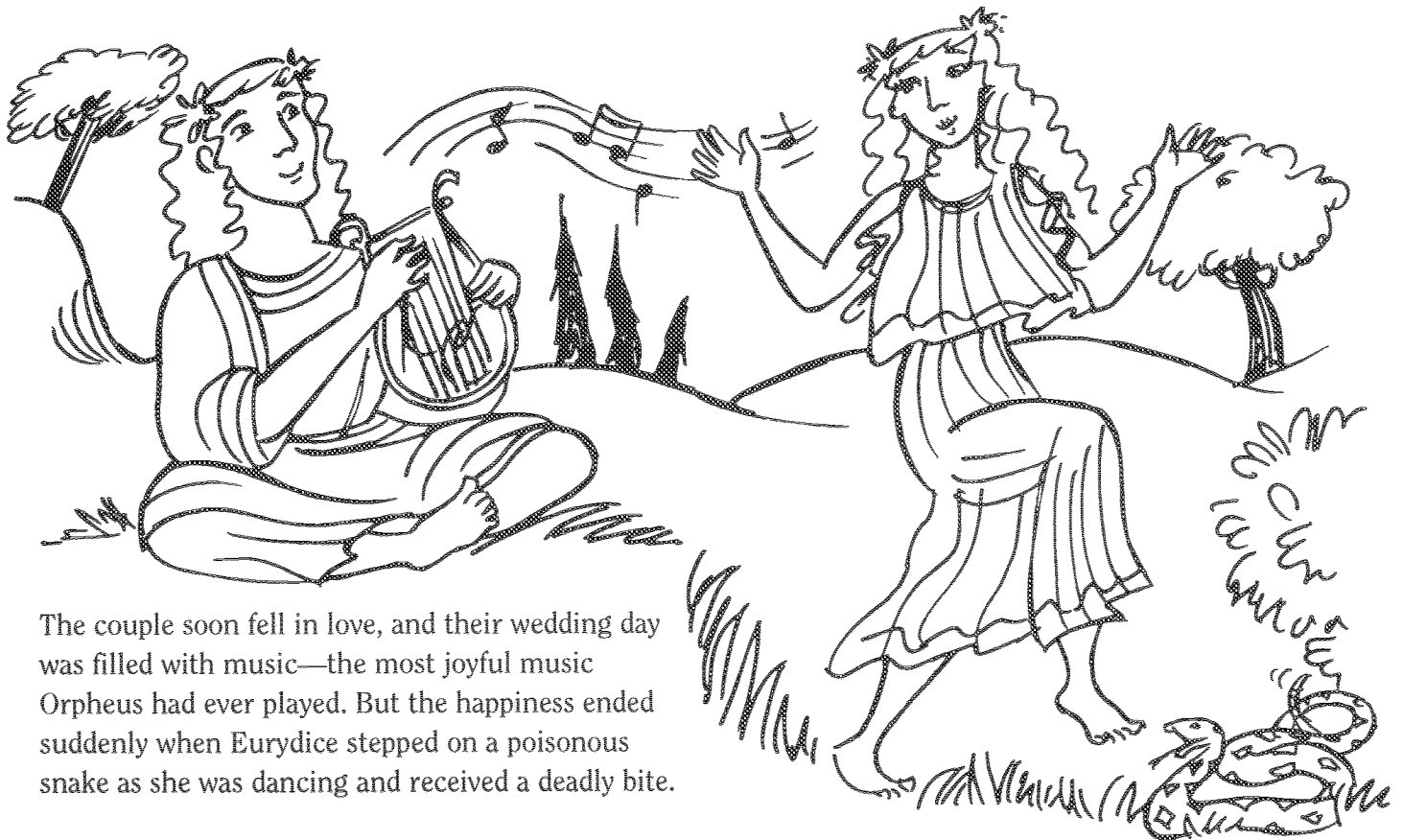


# MUSIC MAKES THE UNDERWORLD GO 'ROUND

The Story of Orpheus and Eurydice



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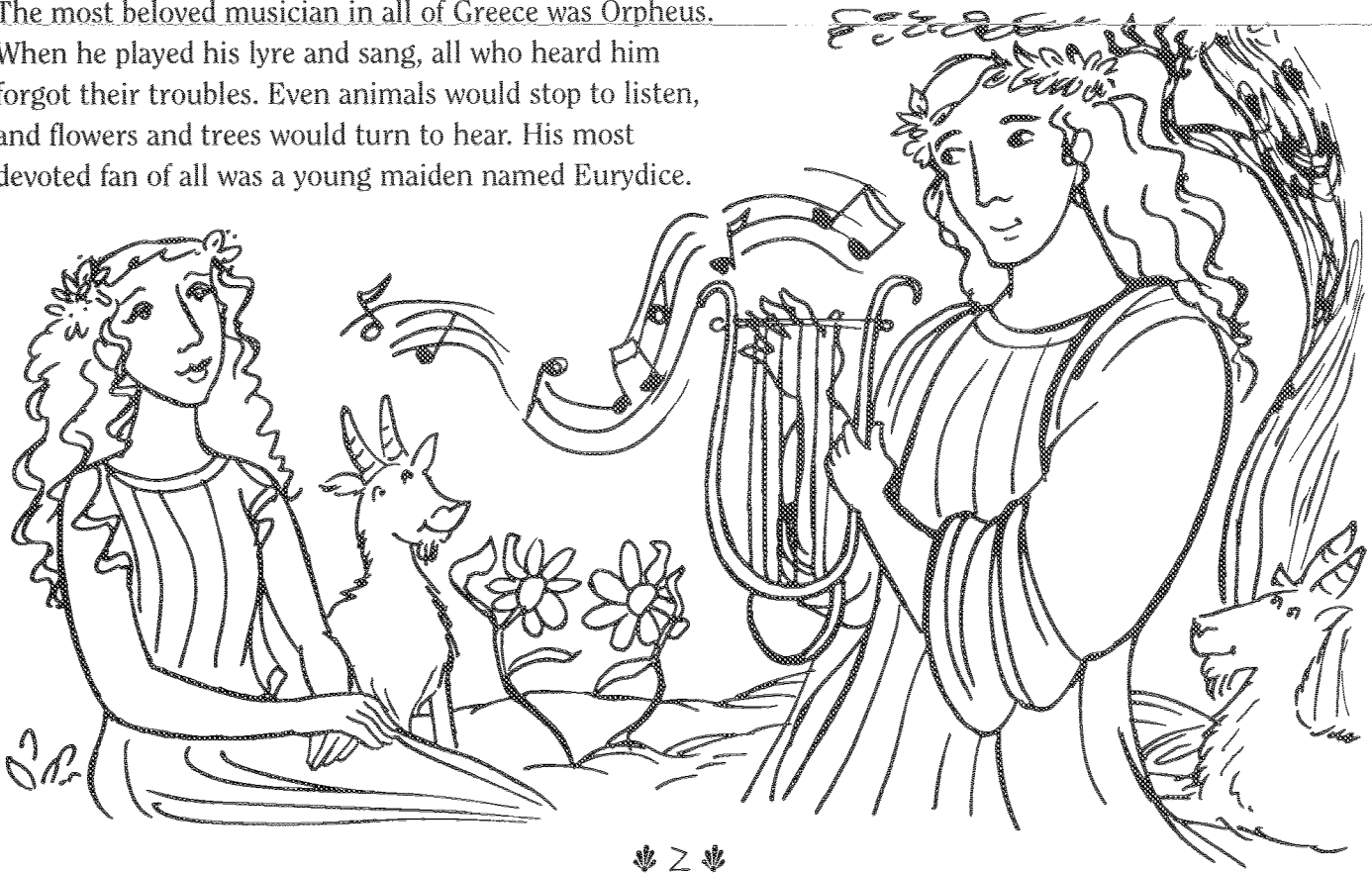


The couple soon fell in love, and their wedding day was filled with music—the most joyful music Orpheus had ever played. But the happiness ended suddenly when Eurydice stepped on a poisonous snake as she was dancing and received a deadly bite.



The most beloved musician in all of Greece was Orpheus.

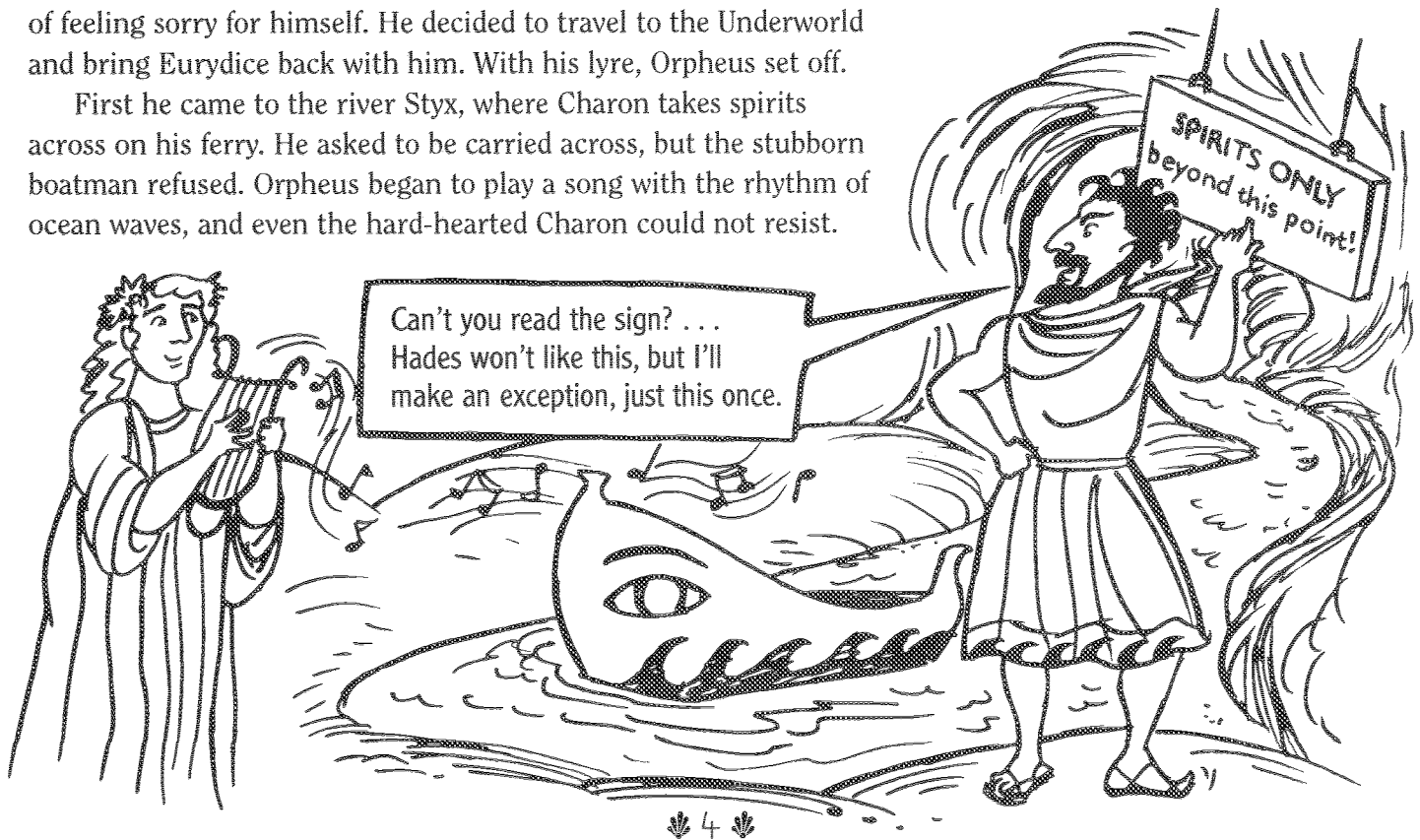
When he played his lyre and sang, all who heard him forgot their troubles. Even animals would stop to listen, and flowers and trees would turn to hear. His most devoted fan of all was a young maiden named Eurydice.



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Orpheus grieved for the loss of his wife, but he soon became tired of feeling sorry for himself. He decided to travel to the Underworld and bring Eurydice back with him. With his lyre, Orpheus set off.

First he came to the river Styx, where Charon takes spirits across on his ferry. He asked to be carried across, but the stubborn boatman refused. Orpheus began to play a song with the rhythm of ocean waves, and even the hard-hearted Charon could not resist.



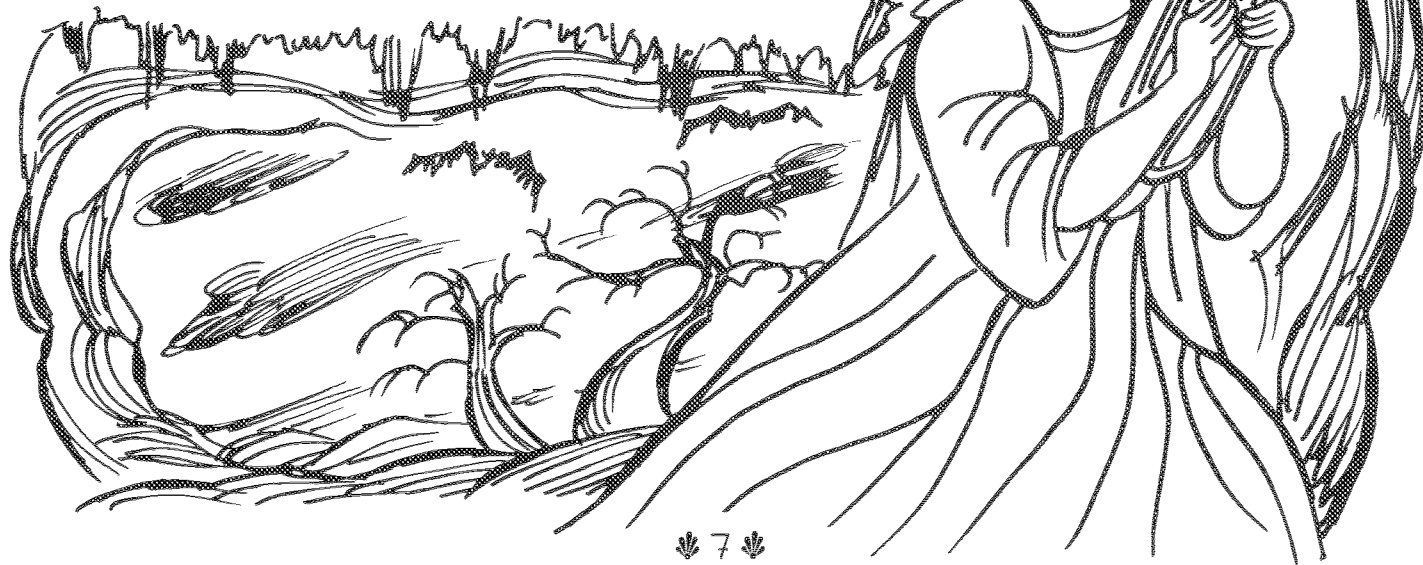
When he got off the ferry, Orpheus came face to face with a fierce three-headed dog. This was Cerberus, Hades' guard dog and beloved pet. Before the creature sank its three sets of fangs into his leg, Orpheus began to play a soothing song about lamb chops. The music lulled Cerberus to sleep, and soon all three of his mouths were drooling.



Orpheus continued playing songs as he made his way through the Underworld. The spirits who heard him forgot their surroundings and imagined they were alive and happy. Tantalus, who was punished with eternal thirst, forgot about drinking the forbidden water. Sisyphus forgot about the boulder he was doomed to push for eternity and let it slip and roll over his big toe.

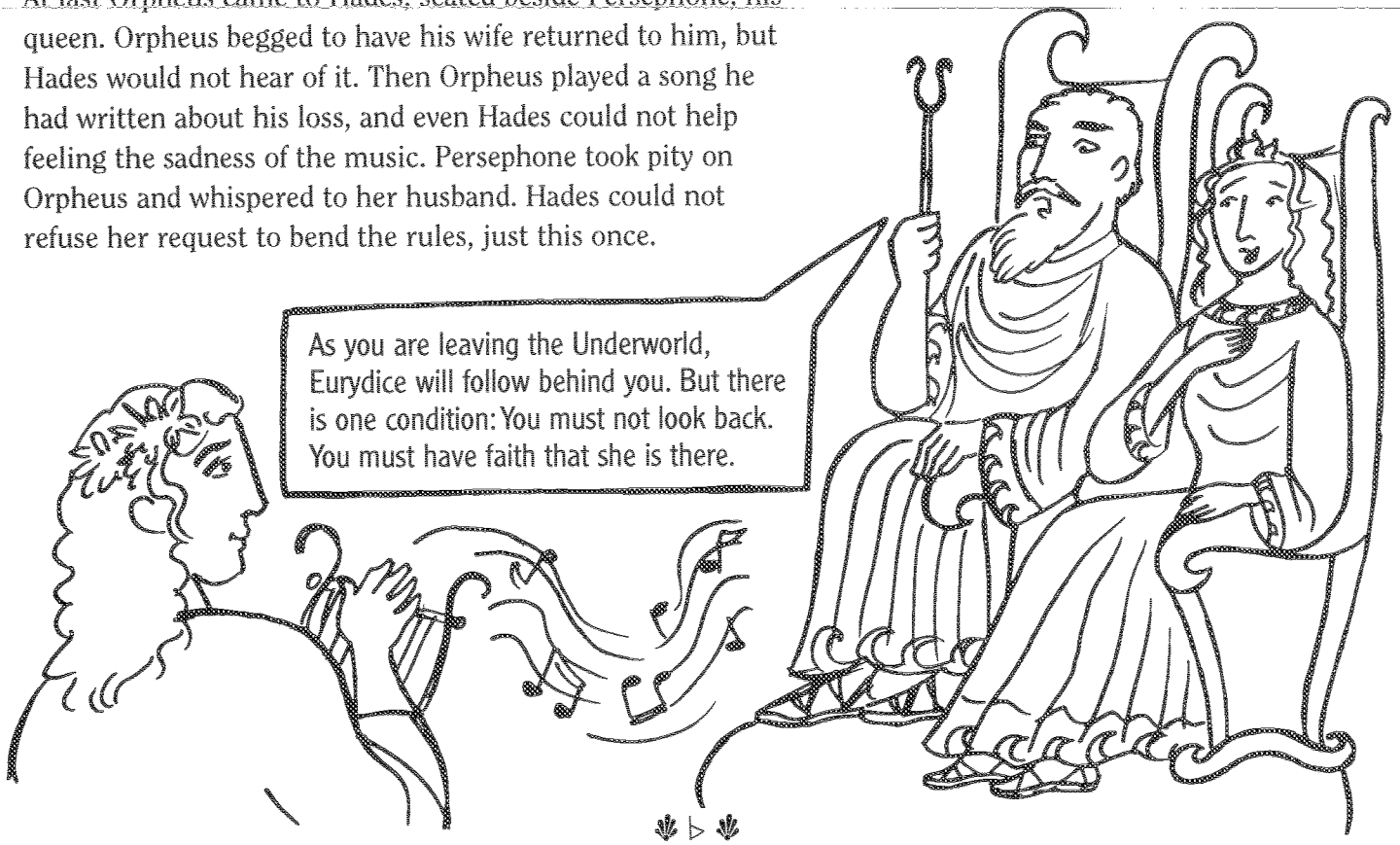
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Orpheus was overjoyed and set off at once. He played songs to distract himself, but he could not stop wondering if Eurydice was really following. What if Hades had tricked him into leaving the Underworld without his wife? After all, the gods were known to be cruel. If he left the Underworld, he might never get another chance to enter again—and all hope would be lost. As he neared the light of day, his fears grew stronger and he could not resist turning around for just one peek.



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At last Orpheus came to Hades, seated beside Persephone, his queen. Orpheus begged to have his wife returned to him, but Hades would not hear of it. Then Orpheus played a song he had written about his loss, and even Hades could not help feeling the sadness of the music. Persephone took pity on Orpheus and whispered to her husband. Hades could not refuse her request to bend the rules, just this once.



As you are leaving the Underworld, Eurydice will follow behind you. But there is one condition: You must not look back. You must have faith that she is there.

There was his wife, just as happy as she looked on their wedding day. But as he reached out to grasp her hand, Eurydice vanished from sight.

