

THE MYSTERIOUS HORSE

The Story of the Trojan War

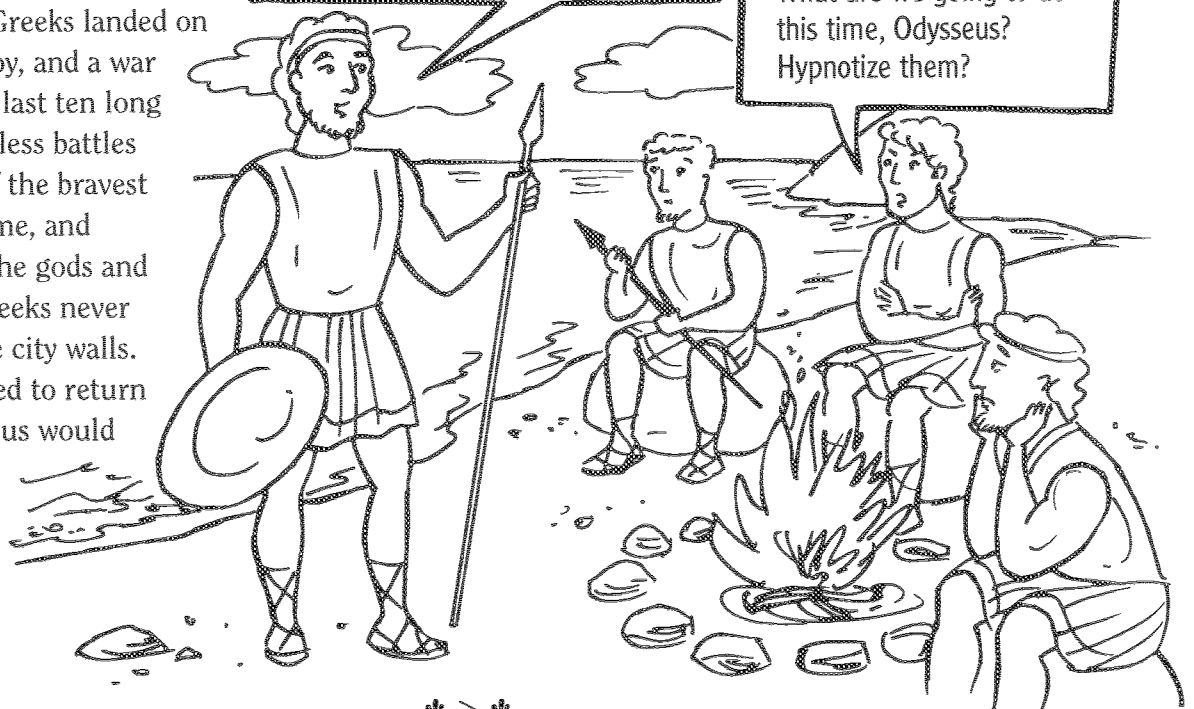


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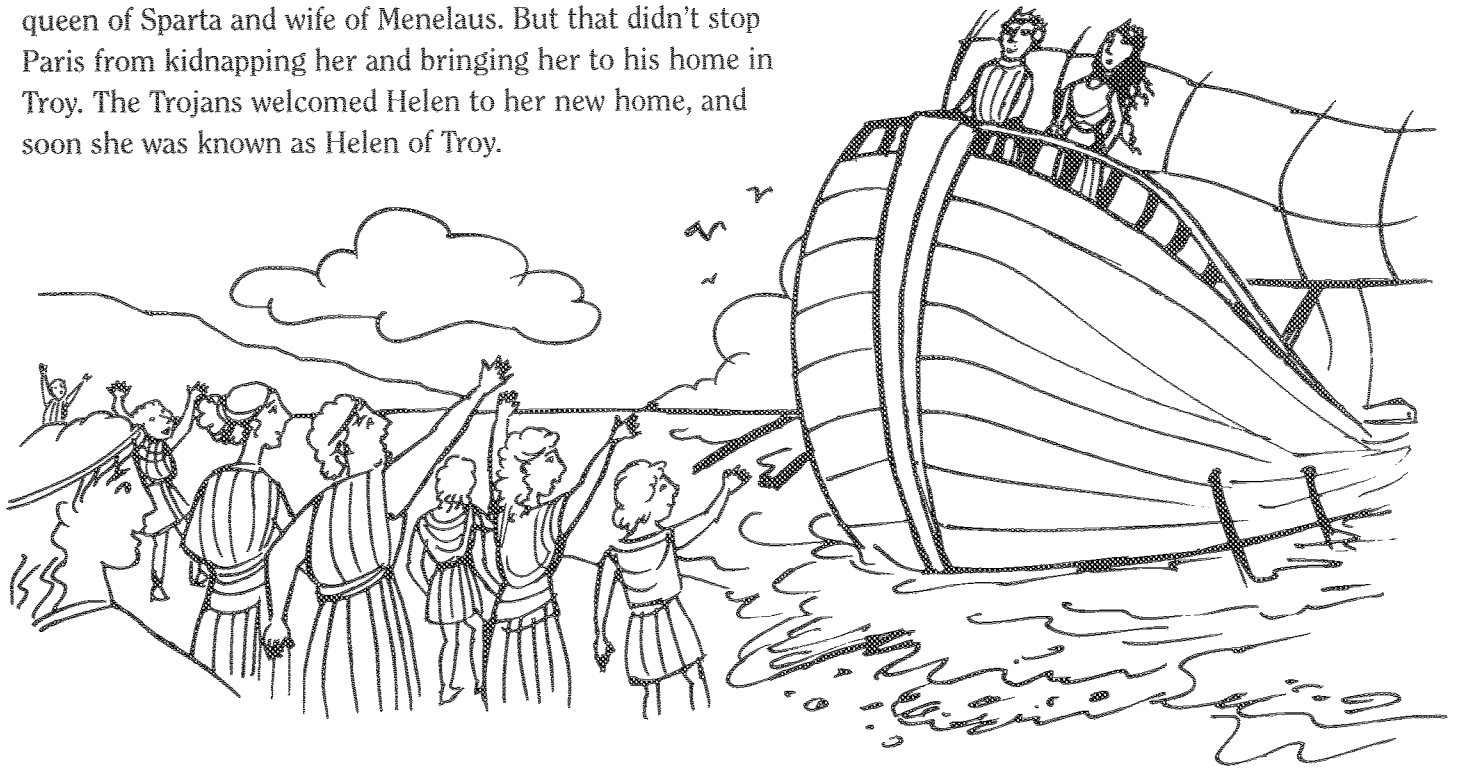
Menelaus was not going to put up with this. He and the courageous leader Odysseus gathered forces in Greece, and they set out to bring Helen back. The Greeks landed on the beaches of Troy, and a war began that would last ten long years. After countless battles involving some of the bravest warriors of the time, and sometimes even the gods and goddesses, the Greeks never made it inside the city walls. The soldiers longed to return home, but Odysseus would not give up.

I've got a plan. We won't even have to fight our way into the city. In fact, the Trojans will carry us inside!

What are we going to do this time, Odysseus? Hypnotize them?



The most beautiful woman in ancient Greece was the cause of one of the most terrible wars. This great beauty was Helen, queen of Sparta and wife of Menelaus. But that didn't stop Paris from kidnapping her and bringing her to his home in Troy. The Trojans welcomed Helen to her new home, and soon she was known as Helen of Troy.



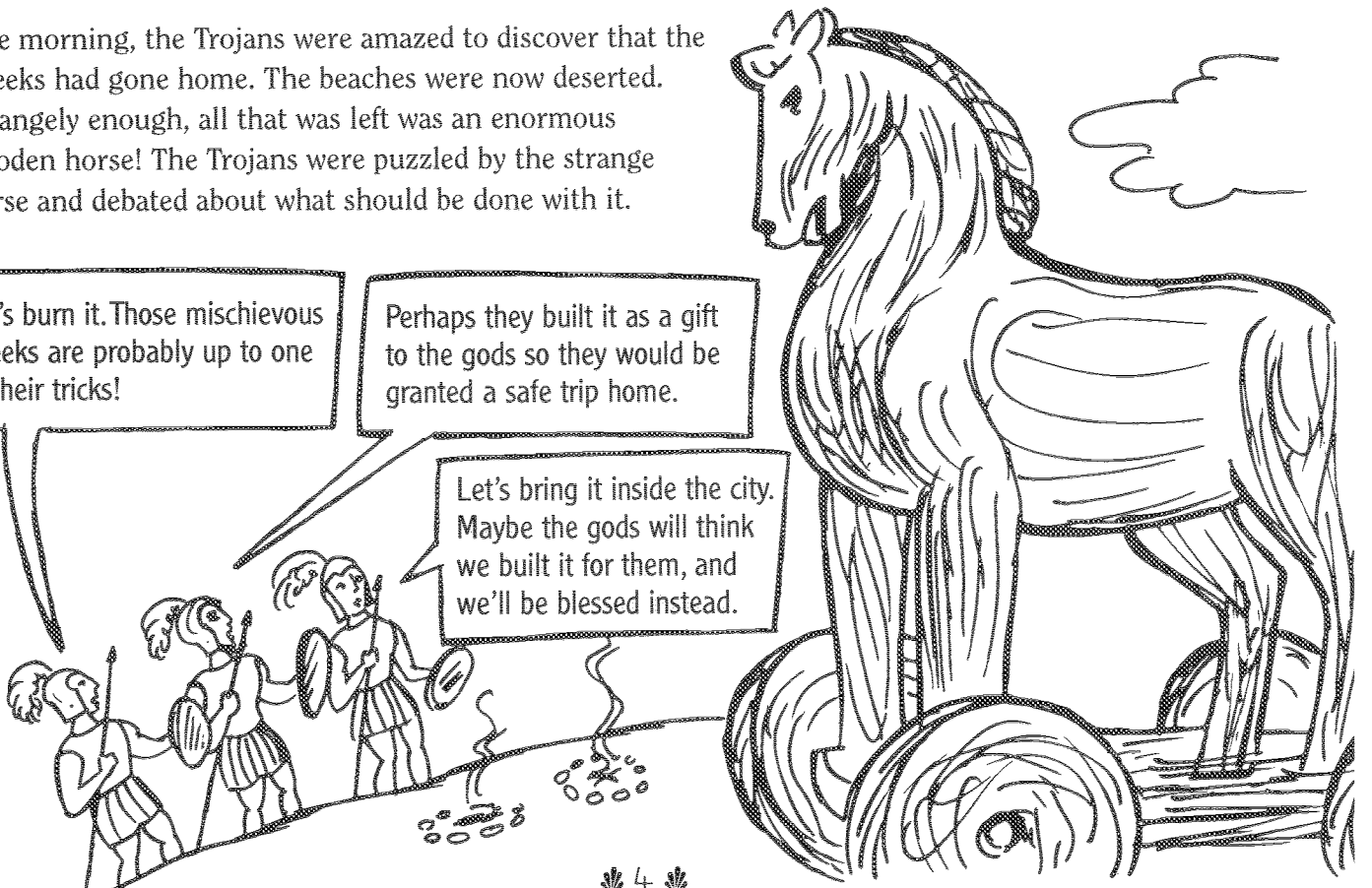
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One morning, the Trojans were amazed to discover that the Greeks had gone home. The beaches were now deserted. Strangely enough, all that was left was an enormous wooden horse! The Trojans were puzzled by the strange horse and debated about what should be done with it.

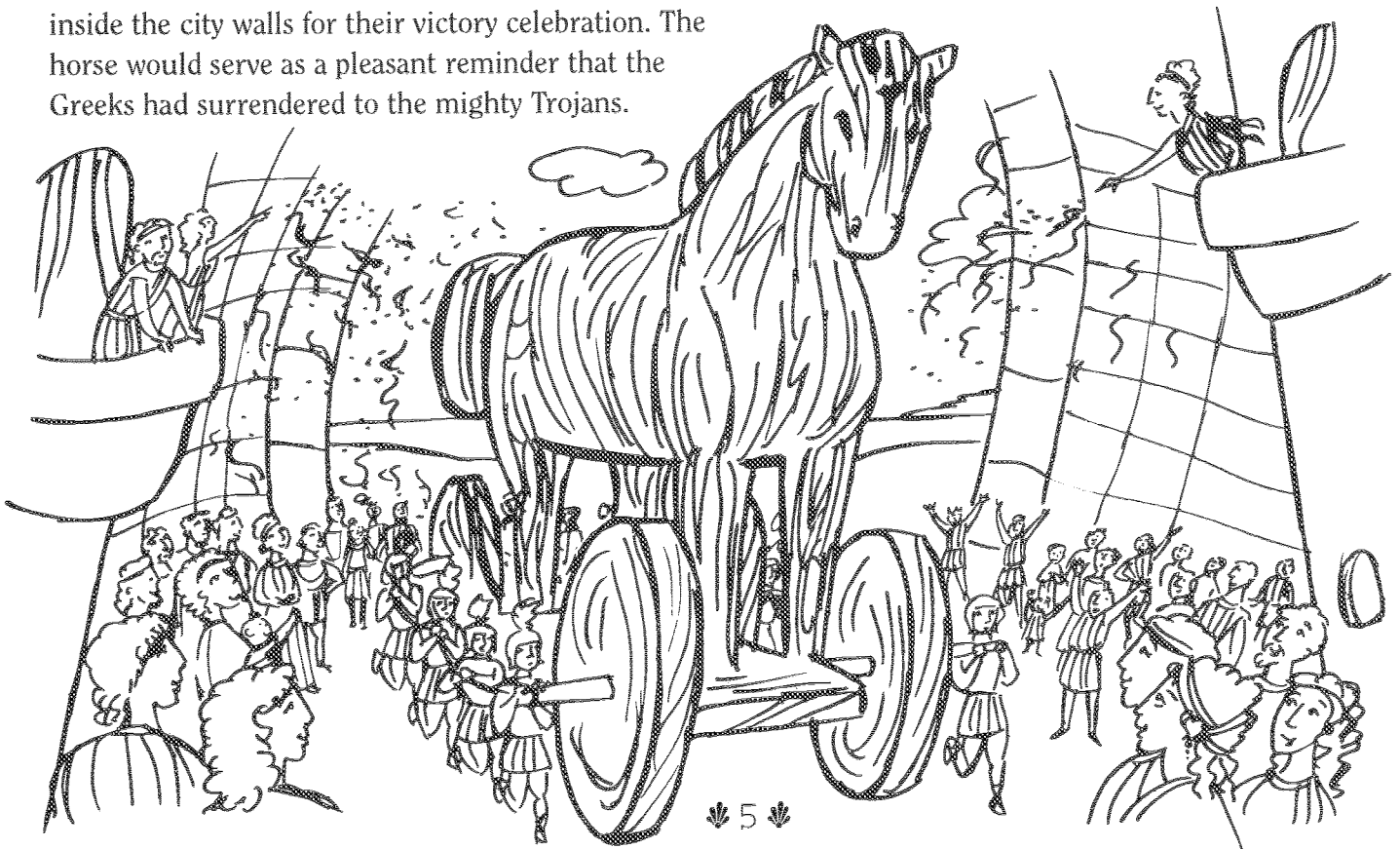
Let's burn it. Those mischievous Greeks are probably up to one of their tricks!

Perhaps they built it as a gift to the gods so they would be granted a safe trip home.

Let's bring it inside the city. Maybe the gods will think we built it for them, and we'll be blessed instead.

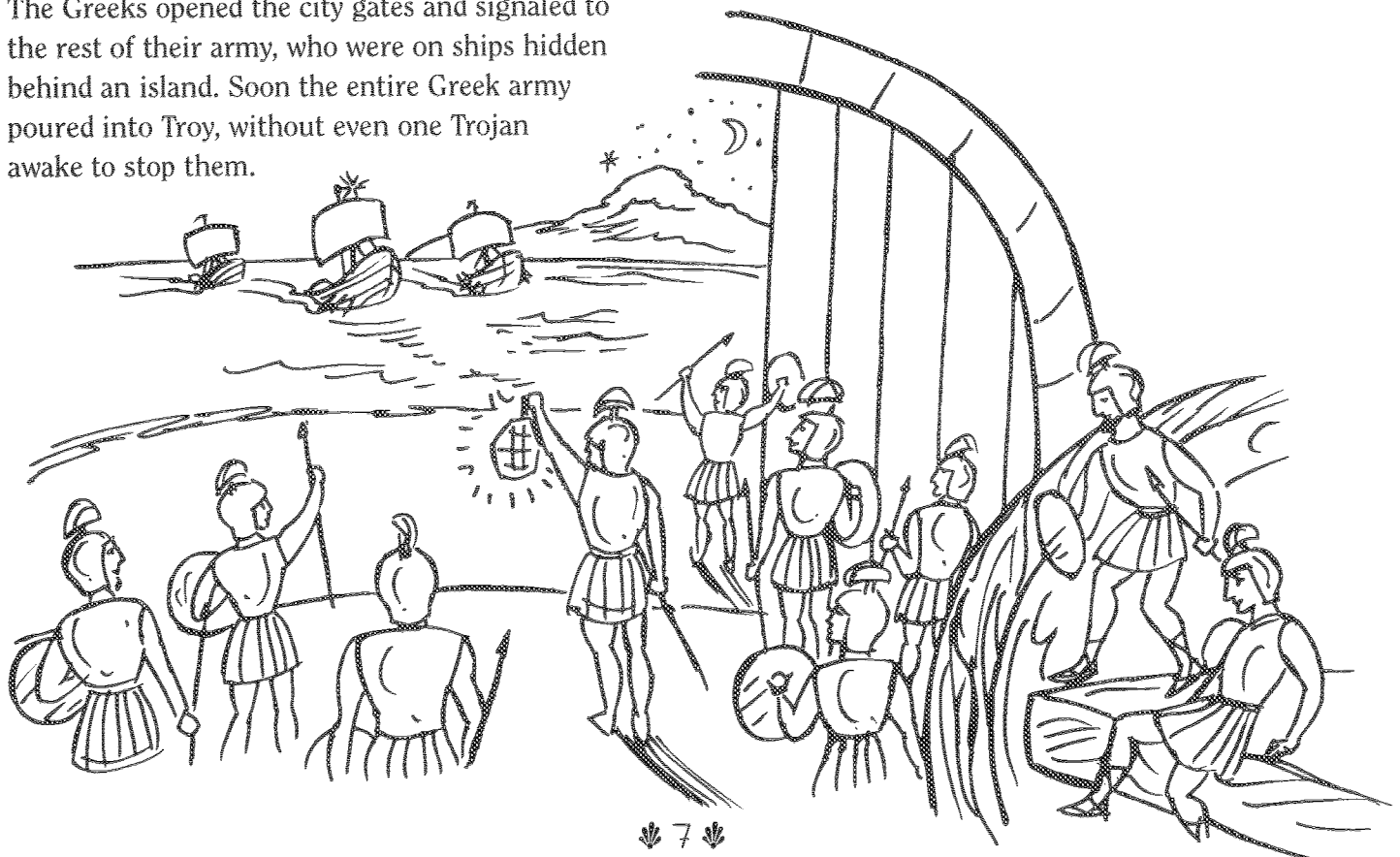


The Trojans decided to bring the enormous, heavy horse inside the city walls for their victory celebration. The horse would serve as a pleasant reminder that the Greeks had surrendered to the mighty Trojans.

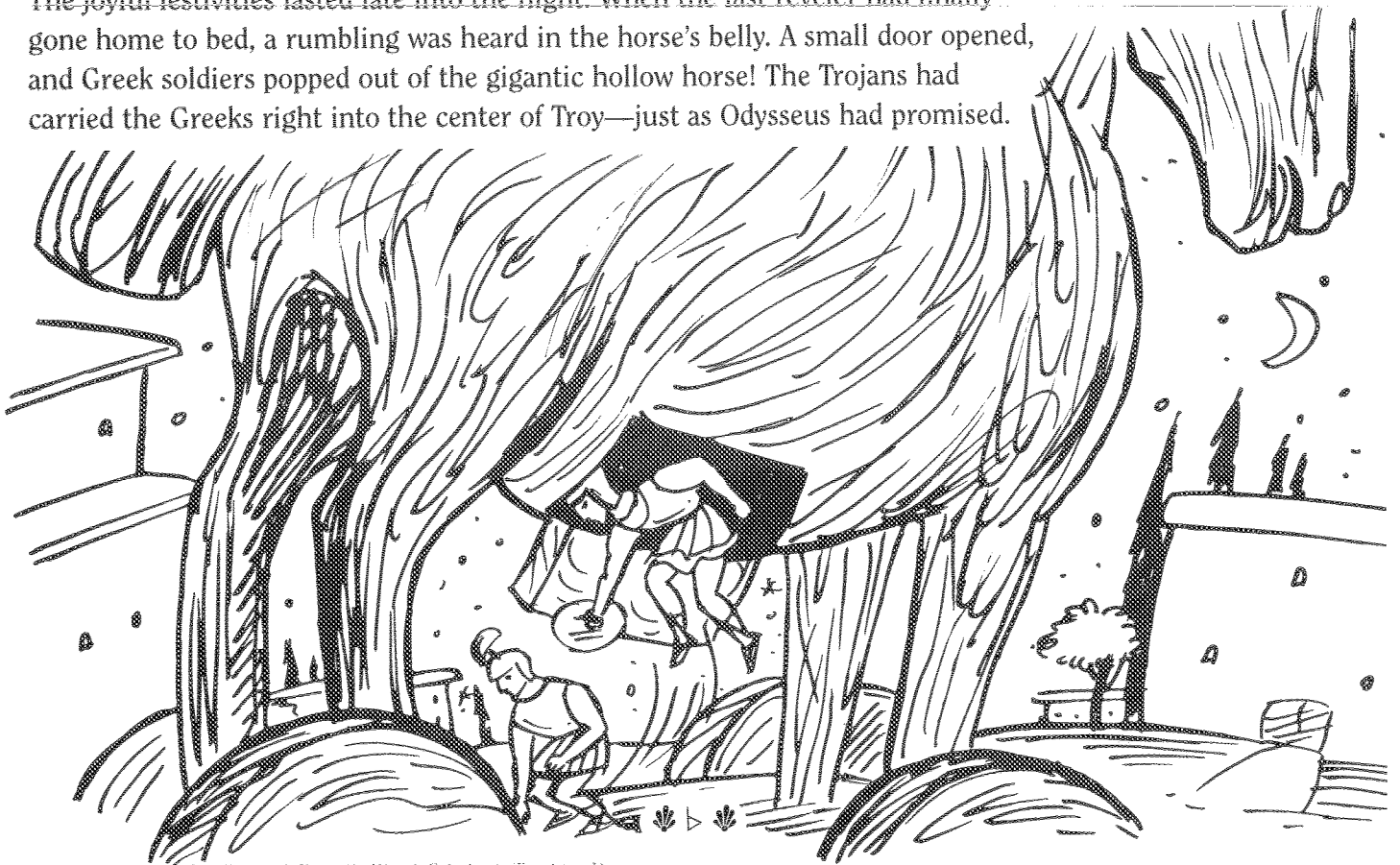


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The Greeks opened the city gates and signaled to the rest of their army, who were on ships hidden behind an island. Soon the entire Greek army poured into Troy, without even one Trojan awake to stop them.

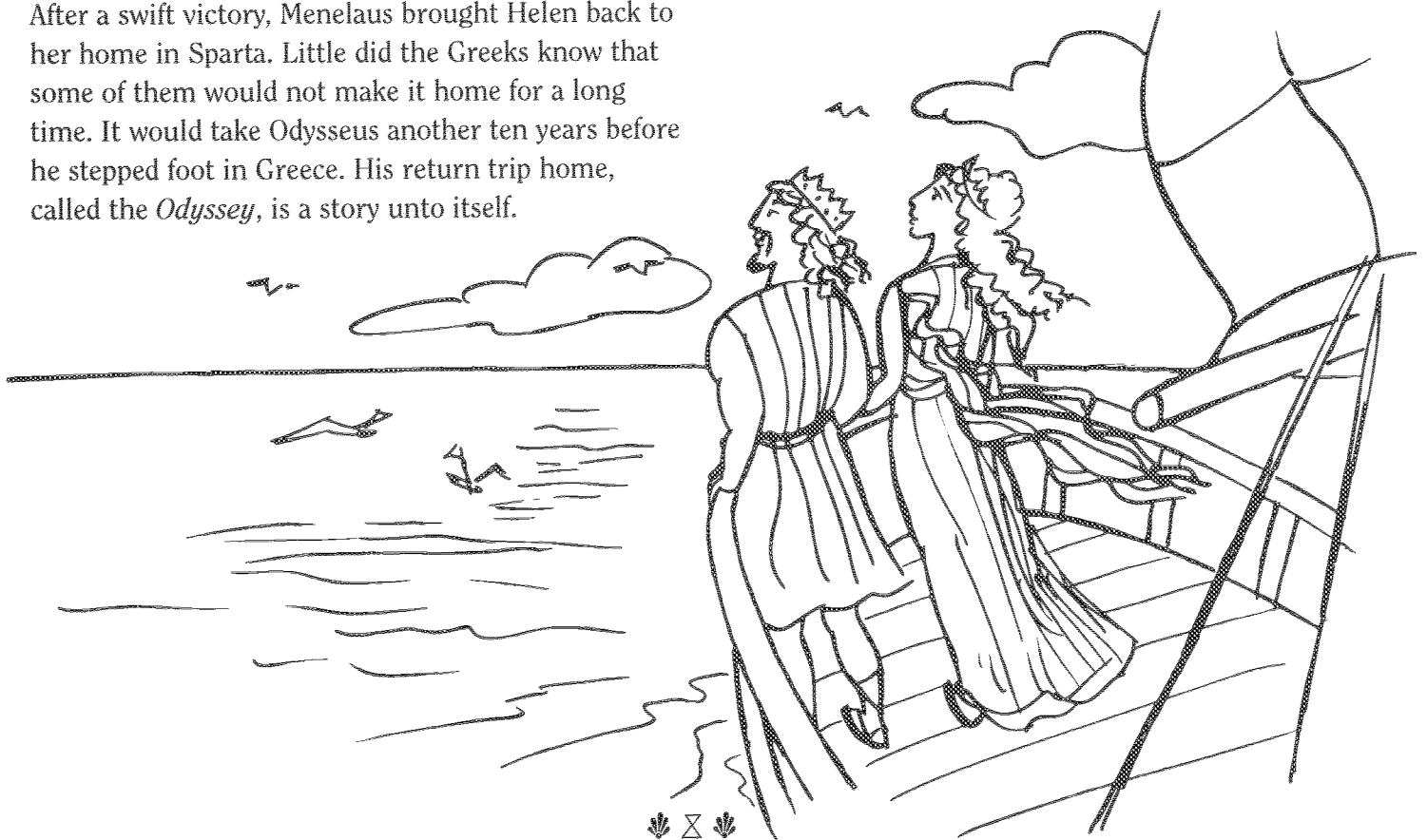


The joyful festivities lasted late into the night. When the last reveler had finally gone home to bed, a rumbling was heard in the horse's belly. A small door opened, and Greek soldiers popped out of the gigantic hollow horse! The Trojans had carried the Greeks right into the center of Troy—just as Odysseus had promised.



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After a swift victory, Menelaus brought Helen back to her home in Sparta. Little did the Greeks know that some of them would not make it home for a long time. It would take Odysseus another ten years before he stepped foot in Greece. His return trip home, called the *Odyssey*, is a story unto itself.



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