

# Kafedaki's Feats in Sewey Cups.

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AUNTIE MELPO AND HER CUPS

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My neighbour, Auntie Melpo is 80 years old. She has snow white hair and small round glasses on the edge of her nose. Every time she looks in her cup of coffee her glasses fall down, almost to her mouth. Antie Melpo loves coffee. The doctor, though, has ~~strictly~~ limited her coffee drinking to <sup>just</sup> one cup every day. So Auntie Melpo <sup>has</sup> invented several tricks in order to make the one and only cup of coffee seem like more than one.

## FIRST TRICK

Auntie Melpo uses seven different <sup>coffee</sup> cups. ~~for serving her coffee in.~~ She uses a different cup for each day of the week. So, she has Sunday's cup, Monday's cup, Tuesday's cup, Wednesday's, Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's cup. Sunday's cup has a beautiful decoration of pink roses. Monday's cup has yellow lillies, Tuesday's cup has blue violets, ~~etc. and soon~~ and each of the others has its own special ~~decorat~~ <sup>flower</sup> pattern.

All seven cups with their little <sup>saucers</sup> ~~plates~~ are nicely arranged, one next to the other, in Auntie Melpo's showcase. Auntie Melpo has neither children nor grandchildren. She is all alone in the world. Her coffee cups are ~~her~~ her children and ~~her~~ grandchildren.

## SECOND TRICK

Auntie Melpo takes it very easy with the one and only cup of coffee that she is allowed to drink every day, so that it lasts almost forever. Here is what she does:

Every morning, as soon as the big Town Clock strikes 10.00, Auntie Melpo starts to prepare her Greek coffee. ~~That is~~ She pours water in her Greek coffee pot and puts it on the fire. At 10.02 she adds one teaspoon of sugar ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the warm water. At 10.03 she adds one teaspoon of coffee, stirs it up and ~~brings~~ <sup>puts</sup> it back ~~to~~ <sup>on the</sup> fire. The Greek coffee starts to boil. Then Auntie Melpo serves the coffee in the cup of the day. If it is Friday she serves it in Friday's cup. If it is Saturday she serves it in Saturday's cup, ~~etc.~~ <sup>and soon</sup> She then puts the cup on the little <sup>saucer</sup> ~~plate~~, puts both on a <sup>tray</sup> ~~disk~~ covered with a fresh linen and next to it she puts a glass of cold water. She then takes the whole lot at the table out in the veranda, under the pomegranate tree. She sits comfortably in her armchair, brings the coffee cup <sup>up</sup> ~~near~~ <sup>to</sup> her nose, ~~smells~~ <sup>breathes in</sup> deeply and says:

Will there be illustrations?  
Children may not be familiar with Greek coffee pots and cups?

ΠΒΜ1.5

-Oh...Life is beautiful. How lucky I am to be alive!

Then she looks around at her plant pots with the basil, the carnation plant, the peppermint. She caresses little Rosmarie, the ginger cat, who is lying at her feet, then she looks up at the sky and drinks the first drop of coffee. After that she gets up, walks <sup>around</sup> a little bit in her living room, <sup>for a while</sup> touches tenderly <sup>the feet</sup> of the little cups in the showcase, comes back to the veranda and drinks the second drop of coffee whispering:

-Life is indeed beautiful. It is good to be alive!

She observes her plant pots once more, waters one or two, takes away the dry leaves, and...drinks another drop of coffee...

At 11.00 sharp, Auntie Melpo's cup has no more coffee. But you must not think that this is the end of the coffee time. Oh, no, on the contrary. Coffee time <sup>is only</sup> just beginning <sup>now</sup>. It is time now for ~~the~~...

TRICK NUMBER THREE

The moment the Town Clock strikes 11.00, Auntie Melpo turns her coffee cup upside down and leaves it there for a while. As everybody knows, <sup>with Greek coffee</sup> thick dregs sink down <sup>to</sup> at the bottom of the ~~Greek coffee's~~ cup. <sup>turned</sup> Those thick dregs fall into the plate as <sup>most of the dregs fall onto the saucer.</sup> When the cup is upside down, A few of them though, remain at the bottom of the cup as well as all over the inside of it. Auntie Melpo puts the cup <sup>saucer</sup> on a clean plate. She secures her little glasses over her nose <sup>so that they don't slip</sup> and starts to read the coffee dregs, the same way as British people read the tea leaves. Believe ~~me~~ <sup>or not</sup> all those dregs that have dried inside the cup are like wonderful, ~~and very~~ strange pictures, Pictures that can be turned into wonderful and strange stories if someone knows how to read them. Well, Auntie Melpo <sup>is one of those lucky people who</sup> knows very well how to read the pictures in a cup of coffee.

You see, Auntie Melpo never went to school. She does not know how to read or write. She cannot read a book of stories. If she knew how to read, I am sure that instead of seven cups she would have had in her showcase seven books, maybe even more. Auntie Melpo adores reading. She adores stories and fairy tales. Whenever she remembers that both her parents died so early and left her all alone as a baby she cries. She says:

-What a pity that I was not able to go to school like the other kids. What a pity that I had to go to work to make my living ~~since~~<sup>when</sup> I was ~~only a~~<sup>only a</sup> little child.

Well, since Auntie Melpo does not know how to read books she reads the coffee cup. If you could only imagine ~~how~~<sup>what</sup> wonderful stories she reads in the coffee cup! She can see everything in there; witches, dragons, princes and queens. Each cup is like Aladdin's magic lamp for her. I assure you, nobody on earth can read ~~so~~<sup>such</sup> beautiful fairy tales as Auntie Melpo reads ~~them~~<sup>from</sup> the coffee cups. Rosmarie, the ginger cat, listens to a different fairy tale every single day, lying comfortably near Auntie Melpo's feet.

As I ~~was~~<sup>listened</sup> to Auntie Melpo's marvellous stories from my window next door, I was really sorry because she could not be heard by more, much more people. I was sorry that she could not be heard by you, the children. So one day I dared ask her to give me one of her stories and let me put it into a book. Auntie Melpo's first reaction was "no". She said that her stories are different ~~from~~<sup>from</sup> proper stories, that her stories are a little crazy, a little confused, exactly like the dregs at the bottom of a cup of coffee.

After ~~many~~<sup>a lot of persuasion</sup> efforts Auntie Melpo ~~accepted~~<sup>finally</sup>. For your sake she made up Little Kafedaki's story. She named it "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups of Coffee". This actually is not just one story but seven stories one after the other, in seven different cups. It is like a serial, with the main characters, Kafedakis and his friends appearing in all seven cups. Now, how can one manage to see the same characters in seven different cups? well, this I suppose depends on how good the coffee-cup-reader is. And Auntie Melpo is really the best.

you may ~~ask~~<sup>ask</sup>

Auntie Melpo gave me ~~the~~ permission to use her story for this book under one condition: That I ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> not change a single word. I accepted, and so every morning at ten o'clock for seven days I would find myself drinking my cup of coffee under her pomegranate tree. At eleven o'clock sharp~~ly~~ I put my empty cup on the table and switched on the tape recorder as Auntie Melpo was turning her cup upside down. As soon as the coffee dregs dried up she looked firmly in the cup and started to read. Auntie Melpo is absolutely certain that only her seven cups contain stories and fairy tales. ~~The~~ Ordinary coffee cups, like mine for instance, contain nothing but unimportant designs, having nothing to do with fairy tales, stories or feats.

Fortunately I ~~personally~~ know how to read and write. So I managed to put ~~the~~ "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups" into this book, otherwise I don't know how you would be able to read it. I can assure you that Kafedaki is extremely charming. As a matter of fact, he is a little funny (I <sup>looking</sup> know ~~that~~ <sup>this</sup> because Auntie Melpo showed him to me several times in her cups). He has a rather big head and his legs are not ~~so~~ <sup>quite</sup> straight. <sup>But</sup> he is <sup>very</sup> <sup>bright (?)</sup> quite sharp, otherwise he wouldn't have managed ~~with~~ all those problems that one faces in a cup. (One must never forget that his incredible feats take place in seven cups).

Sometimes Auntie Melpo is so excited with Kafedaki's adventures that she fails to stay neutral. She gets involved, she changes the facts, she enters into the stories herself. Once I made the ~~fatal~~ <sup>big</sup> mistake <sup>of asking</sup> to ask her why on earth she does this. Her answer was quite angry, almost rude.

"Well", she said, "I ~~suppose~~ this is MY cup, this is MY coffee and this is MY story. I can do whatever I want with them without having to ask anybody's permission ~~for it~~, ~~don't~~ <sup>can't</sup> I? You may take it or leave it!"

As you <sup>can</sup> imagine I shut my mouth ~~up~~ and never interfered again. I didn't want my book to remain unfinished. I swear ~~to~~ <sup>on</sup> Kafedaki's life that I'm <sup>the</sup> telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This book was written exactly the way Auntie Melpo read it from the seven cups. Not a word more, not a word less. When the book was finished I looked through it for the last time and you know what? It didn't seem to me so crazy after all. And...it made me think.

This book is dedicated to you, dear friends, who, instead of seven cups have in your showcases seven books (and maybe even more).

SUNDAY'S CUP

SUNDAY: 11.00

Auntie Melpo ~~secured~~ <sup>fixed</sup> her glasses, ~~looked~~ <sup>stared</sup> very carefully in Sunday's pink- roses- decorated- cup and started:

Welcome, Kafedaki, to the dark brown world  
of the coffee cup.

Little Kafedaki was born one Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. He opened his eyes and ~~immediately~~ <sup>right away</sup> he closed them again. He was terrified. A cat's head with a snake's body was leaning over him.

-Good morning, Kafedaki, welcome to the brown world of the coffee cup, said the Cat and continued in a ~~squeaky~~ <sup>gentle</sup> voice, leaning even closer over him:

If you are modest don't be afraid  
but if you are cunning do be scared.

? omit

Then the Cat with the snake's body ~~offered~~ <sup>held out</sup> Kafedaki a piece of chocolate as big as a brick.

Here, take ~~this~~ <sup>is</sup> chocolate, ~~from your friend, the Cat~~ <sup>it's soft and creamy,</sup> it is delicious, eat it up.

The chocolate looked ~~delicious~~ <sup>extremely</sup> indeed and Kafedaki was eager to ~~give it~~ <sup>take</sup> a good bite.

-Don't! For God's sake don't bite, Kafedaki.

This second voice next to his ear ~~gave~~ <sup>such</sup> Kafedaki ~~a shock~~ <sup>that</sup> He ~~threw away~~ <sup>dropped</sup> the chocolate. A young Gazelle with big sweet eyes and charming face was now leaning over him.

He ~~this~~ <sup>you have</sup> isn't a Cat, ~~take~~ <sup>on</sup> my word ~~for~~ that.

He's ~~is~~ a poisonous snake and the chocolate is fake.

If you eat it you will ~~be~~ <sup>soon</sup> dead.

Here, ~~take~~ <sup>eat</sup> this apple, ~~to~~ <sup>instead</sup> eat instead.

The Gazelle offered Kafedaki a ~~fresh~~ <sup>big</sup> apple. But the Cat ~~insisted,~~ <sup>persisted</sup> He offered his chocolate once more and said:

-Kafedaki, dear, ~~why don't you choose~~ <sup>you have nothing to lose</sup> the most tasty, the ~~most~~ <sup>more</sup> delicious of the two? Chocolate, or apple? Apple or Chocolate? Come on, choose! Don't be afraid.

saying  
Come, Kafedaki, why don't you choose?  
Apple or chocolate?  
You've nothing to lose.  
Tasty chocolate or ordinary apple?  
Which is it to be, Kafedaki dear?  
Listen to me, you've nothing to fear.

Kafedaki was in an extremely difficult position. The dilemma was tremendous. The Gazelle's eyes were staring at him in such a sweet way while the Cat's eyes had ~~had~~ <sup>wickedly</sup> sparkled. But to tell you the truth, chocolate is Kafedaki's favourite. An apple is nothing more than...just an apple.

Kafedaki ~~took~~ <sup>picked up</sup> the chocolate <sup>in one hand,</sup> then he ~~took~~ <sup>took</sup> the apple <sup>in the other</sup>. The Gazelle and the Cat were ~~waited~~ <sup>waited</sup>. And finally Kafedaki threw away the chocolate and ~~gave~~ <sup>took</sup> a bite <sup>from</sup> to the apple.

The next moment a ~~couple~~ <sup>pair</sup> of wings ~~were~~ <sup>started</sup> growing ~~on~~ <sup>to sprout from</sup> the Gazelle's back. The Gazelle said:

6

Very well done, my new-found friend  
you made the right choice, in the end

-Well done, my friend.

You chose right <sup>at</sup> the end.

The danger is not over, though,

Hurry, ~~get~~ <sup>climb</sup> on my back and let us go.

Kafedaki did not have time ~~even~~ to think. He ~~sat~~ <sup>climbed</sup> on the Gazelle's back and off they ~~flew~~ <sup>flow</sup>. The Gazelle repeated:

~~-That Cat is really bad  
he wants you out of the cup  
he is actually an evil Snake  
and poisoned is his chocolate.~~

That Cat, or should I say,  
That evil Snake, who tricked you  
with that chocolate, fake,  
He's really bad. He won't give up  
until he's chased you from the cup.

In that same instant Kafedaki heard <sup>almost</sup> a horrible laugh just behind them. As he turned his head he was <sup>L</sup> scared to death. The cat <sup>grown</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>L</sup> snake who had also <sup>L</sup> wings was flying right behind them. His mouth was open, ready to eat them <sup>up</sup> <sup>both</sup>. Kafedaki begged the Gazelle:

-Oh, please, dear Gazelle, fly faster, the Cat-Snake is just behind us, I can feel his breath, hot like fire, at the back of my head, please fly faster.

The Gazelle said:

-Bite the apple, Kafedaki dear.

~~so that we can disappear.~~ Bite it quickly and he <sup>all</sup> ~~will~~ disappear

Kafedaki bit the apple, ~~at once~~. He bit so deep and in such a hurry that he almost suffocated. The cat with the snake's body disappeared <sup>in</sup> <sup>behind</sup> a passing ~~by~~ cloud. The Gazelle <sup>flow</sup> <sup>on</sup> <sup>until</sup> ~~he~~ <sup>they had</sup> ~~more,~~ he almost <sup>been</sup> ~~flew~~ around the whole cup. Finally he stopped next to a Cypress tree and said.

Now I must leave you - <sup>it is a pity -</sup> Here I must leave you alone, Kafedaki. I am not allowed <sup>to</sup> go any further. This is the border of the Silent City. <sup>and I can go no further.</sup> We shall meet again if you are lucky.  
We shall not forget each other if you are unlucky...

-What does all this mean, Kafedaki wondered, "the borders <sup>edge</sup> of the Silent City?" and "we shall meet if you are <sup>my luck holds</sup> lucky," we shall not forget each other if you are unlucky." Please, don't go, don't leave me alone. You promised to be my friend. The Gazelle <sup>replied</sup> ~~repeated~~:

-We shall meet again if you are lucky  
we shall not forget each other if you are unlucky  
Don't forget the apple, Kafedaki dear  
I can't say more, I will be near.

If your luck holds, we'll meet again.  
Remember what I say till then.  
Remember the magic apple, dear  
I can't say more but I'll be near.

With these words,

The Gazelle with the <sup>soft,</sup> wet tender eyes <sup>flew off</sup> went away. Kafedaki suspected that his <sup>the</sup> words were symbols of a great secret. Kafedaki <sup>swore</sup> swore to discover this secret. He also <sup>swore</sup> swore to keep the magic apple as a precious souvenir of his first and only friend in Sunday's cup. Then he started to walk. <sup>At a</sup> ~~At a~~ distance he could see the Silent City. It looked like a fairy City, misty and deserted. ~~and~~ All around it there was a wire fence. Kafedaki's heart was beating like an alarm clock. He was all alone in a strange, unknown place. He realized <sup>then</sup> that what scares one most is loneliness. He walked towards the fence. When he reached <sup>it</sup> them he saw that they <sup>it was</sup> were not real wire fences but seaweed fences. <sup>When he saw this,</sup> ~~He~~ forgot his fear and he started to laugh.

Loneliness is the most frightening thing of all.

~~As soon as~~ <sup>When</sup> I meet the Gazelle <sup>again,</sup> I'll tell him that he <sup>he should have joined</sup> could very well join me <sup>in</sup> this peaceful walk, he said to himself.

But all of a sudden, as Kafedaki was walking <sup>along</sup> ~~careless~~ he heard several strange groan <sup>s</sup> ~~s~~ and sighs. He looked around. <sup>There was</sup> ~~Nobody~~ ~~was~~ there; neither people nor any other creature. The City was absolutely deserted. Kafedaki had the impression that the groanings <sup>groans</sup> and the sighs <sup>were</sup> ~~coming~~ <sup>lay</sup> from inside the earth. He <sup>put</sup> ~~lay~~ down touching the earth with his ear <sup>to the ground.</sup> Yes, he was right. The <sup>strange noises</sup> groanings and the sighs were coming from underground.

-Who's ~~is~~ there? Who's ~~is~~ crying <sup>down there?</sup> in the earth? Kafedaki asked.

No answer. The groanings <sup>s</sup> ~~now~~ <sup>grew louder</sup> became stronger.

-Who is groaning inside the earth, ~~for God's sake?~~ he asked again. ~~Why?~~ "And why?"

Nothing. The groanings <sup>s</sup> ~~and~~ the sighs continued, ~~gradually~~ becoming stronger and stronger.

-For the third and last time I am asking, who is crying and why?

Again he got no answer, while the groanings <sup>s</sup> ~~and~~ the sighings <sup>s</sup> ~~became~~ <sup>even louder</sup> stronger. Then, as Kafedaki was lying <sup>flat</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>ground</sup> the earth, he saw a little snail, all naked, without its shell. The naked snail looked in Kafedaki's eyes and said with a very sad voice:

If you want to find <sup>the reason</sup> why, you ~~must not~~ <sup>needn't</sup> look <sup>up to</sup> in the sky. ~~Look deep under your feet, you will find all you need.~~ ~~Look deep down beneath the ground. There the answer will be found.~~

-Oh, does everybody in this cup have to talk in this mysterious way? Kafedaki asked. What does it mean "I will find all I need in the earth?" Why don't you make yourself clear?

The snail moved his antennae<sup>e</sup> in a sad way and said:

~~A respectable snail I used to be  
I never hurt anybody  
Strangers came and stole my shell  
look at me now, I feel like hell.~~

A quiet life I used to live,  
never causing pain or fears.  
Then strangers came and stole my shell,  
leaving me with ~~cold~~<sup>groans</sup> and tears.

The snail moved slowly away, leaving Kafedaki alone once more.

Why? why? why?

The <sup>sad</sup> echo of <sup>the snail's</sup> ~~this~~ voice repeated <sup>in Kafedaki's head and he wondered</sup> in a ~~sad way~~: Why? why? why? Kafedaki was wondering why <sup>anybody would steal</sup> ~~indeed~~ the little snail's shell, ~~was stolen~~ <sup>leaving him</sup> and he was left all naked, miserable and ridiculous. "Poor thing," Kafedaki thought, "he tries to stretch up his antennae but it is useless. He has lost all his dignity and pride. Not to mention the cold he must feel without any dress..."

<sup>was walking on, deep in thought, when</sup> Kafedaki ~~kept walking and thinking~~. A minute later a little bird fell at his feet. The bird was trembling. It was very scared.

Do you hear the Earth's terrible cries?  
Please, Kafedaki, find the "Whys".

-Here we are, again," Kafedaki said. "What does this mean?"

My voice is my most precious <sup>thing</sup> ~~thing~~ <sup>property</sup> but I am not allowed to sing.  
Why? Why? Why?

<sup>A gun fired nearby, interrupting the bird and frightening it away. But</sup> ~~A gun-shot interrupted the little bird and made it fly away at once. But the echo of its voice was repeating: Why? Why? Why?~~ <sup>until, a few moments</sup> Kafedaki kept walking and thinking. A minute later a little boy appeared. He was very pale and very weak. His eyes were full of tears as he <sup>spoke</sup> ~~was complaining~~:

My father was killed  
my mother was killed  
I have nobody to live with.  
Why? Why? Why?

Bombs and gun shots <sup>could be</sup> ~~were~~ heard <sup>in the distance</sup> ~~from far away~~. The ~~echo was~~ <sup>repeating:</sup> Why? Why? Why?

Kafedaki <sup>wanted to</sup> ~~felt like~~ comforting ~~the~~ sick child, but the child looked at him with sad eyes and then vanished.

The <sup>sighing</sup> and the <sup>groanings</sup> ~~coming~~ from inside the earth became stronger. Now among the sighs and the groanings Kafedaki could hear very clearly the word "WHY?".

10  
Kafedaki felt as if an invisible hand was leading him. He did not resist because he was ~~so~~ curious to find out what was going on.

The Silent City was absolutely deserted. Not a single soul was moving in the streets. The shops, the houses, the restaurants the schools and the clubs were all empty. It was as if the people had left all of a sudden, leaving their jobs unfinished. ~~A~~ Total silence; not a single word, not a single musical note <sup>of music,</sup> not a single ~~noise~~ <sup>sound</sup>. Oh, nobody can imagine how dreadful a Silent City is. It looks like a school without children or like a theatre without <sup>an</sup> audience. It breaks your heart. ~~On the contrary,~~ <sup>Meanwhile,</sup> the voices from underground were becoming louder and louder, always asking the same question: "WHY?" "WHY?" "WHY?"

Kafedaki walked and walked for hours. He felt lonely and sad. He needed to hear a human ~~3~~ voice. So he started to sing:

Tra la la tra la la  
tra la rila rila la.

A window from a half-ruined house opened a little ~~bit~~ <sup>as he passed</sup>. Kafedaki saw an old lady's head through the crack. She had snow white hair and a funny cook's cup. cap?

"Who is there? Did I hear someone singing in the Silent City?" the old lady asked.

"It's me, Kafedaki."

"Can't you speak louder? I can't hear a word. Who are you?"

Kafedaki realized that the old lady ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> a little deaf. So he shouted as loud as possible:

"My name is Kafedaki. You don't know me. Tell me, why is this City so silent? Where are the people?"

"Shhhh... don't shout. Somebody might hear you. Well, now this is really the Silent City. Once upon a time it used to be the Smiling City. Everybody has left except for me. Even my cousin, Angry, has left too."

"Your cousin Angry?"

Angry seemed a funny name to Kafedaki.

"What is your name, grandma?"

"My name, well, my name ...mmm let me remember... It's been so long time since anybody called my name... Oh, yes, my name is Happy."

"Happy? ~~To~~ be honest, you don't look so happy to me."

U

-How can anybody be happy, dear boy, in this lonely place? You need to have friends, people to share your happiness with in order to be happy. You see, now that you ~~came~~<sup>are</sup> here I can become happy again...

strange

-I am afraid I will not be here long, dear Misses Happy. You see, I must go and find the People of the Silent City. A ~~secret~~<sup>voice</sup> power inside me tells me that I must bring these people back to their homes and to their shops, so that the Silent City ~~becomes~~<sup>can</sup> the Smiling City again.

-God bless you, child, I hope you come back soon. If you see my cousin, Angry, please tell her that I miss her, and that I look forward to ~~start~~ fighting with her again. Life is tasteless without our fights.

-How would I recognise your cousin, Misses Happy?

-No ~~chance~~<sup>you can't</sup> for you to miss her. The most unbearable creature on earth, that's my cousin Angry. You will recognize her alright. Look, take this honey pie with you. My cousin will calm down if you give it to her. She loves my honey pies though she never admits it. Farewell, Kafedaki.

Kafedaki left Misses Happy (who actually didn't seem so happy) and ~~proceeded~~<sup>went on</sup>. He walked all day, till he reached the other end of the Silent City. His heart was heavy like steel. He sat on a stone and sighed deeply. He was also very hungry. In his left ~~hand~~<sup>hand</sup> pocket he felt Misses Happy's pie. In his right ~~hand~~<sup>hand</sup> pocket he felt the Gazelle's apple.

-The pie seems delicious, he thought. It smells ~~of~~<sup>of</sup> honey and Cinnamon. Nobody will really notice ~~it~~<sup>eat</sup> if I ~~bite~~<sup>eat</sup> a little piece. But on the other hand, this pie does not belong to me, I have no right to ~~bite~~<sup>eat</sup> it. The apple is mine; the Gazelle gave it to me. I have every right to ~~bite~~<sup>eat</sup> it.

So Kafedaki bit ~~the~~<sup>into</sup> the Gazelle's apple. As he was chewing, a big castle with towers and loopholes appeared in front of him.

-My friend the Gazelle is still taking care of me, Kafedaki thought. Then he shouted towards the Castle:

-Is there anybody here?

-Who are you, what do you want? Do you have ~~the~~ permission to be here?

The voice came from a closed window at the roof of the tower. ~~The same~~<sup>in that</sup> instant the window opened and a head appeared, a head as big as a barrel.

-No, I don't have ~~a~~ permission. Where would I ~~have taken~~<sup>get</sup> ~~it~~<sup>one?</sup> There is practically nobody in this City.

12

-Well, well, look who's ~~is~~ here. Mr Kafedaki in person! Wait and see what will happen to you, the big head said. The next moment a huge hand, as big as a column, <sup>came</sup> hung from the window, seized poor Kafedaki and <sup>pulled</sup> brought him in <sup>to</sup> the tower.

-Welcome, Mr Kafedaki, I was waiting for you, the Giant said. Don't you recognize me?

Kafedaki looked at him. He was so big that he could hardly fit into the room, so he had to kneel on the floor. Kafedaki was absolutely sure that he had never seen that terrible giant before.

-You see, he apologized, I am brand new in this cup, so I don't know many people. I... don't think I've had the pleasure...

-Oh, yes you've had the pleasure... Listen to this and you will remember at once:

If you are modest don't be afraid  
if you are cunning do be scared... / ?

-How about a piece of chocolate, dear Kafedaki? Remember, you had the chance to choose, but you preferred the Gazelle's apple.

Kafedaki was astonished:

-You mean to say that you are the cat who was a snake... I beg your pardon, the snake that was a cat... excuse me... Are you the one that offered me the chocolate? he asked in the most polite way.

-That's right, I am the one that you rejected. I am, as you see, the Terrible Giant, and I had transformed myself into a snakecat to kill you.

-Why kill me? I never hurt you," Kafedaki complained.

-Of course you did. Everybody in this cup knows that you came in order to steal my throne, and to become the Great Master of the Cup. Whoever dares to stretch a hand over my throne, dies at once.

And, ~~by~~ saying this, the Terrible Giant raised his foot in order to step <sup>on</sup> ever Kafedaki.

-Stop, wait a minute, Kafedaki screamed. I don't want to steal your throne. All I want is to find the People of the Silent City.

-Here we are, you see? You want to marry the Beauty and become the Master of the City. ~~No way!~~ You will find nobody. I put them all in jail. Miss Beauty doesn't want to marry me because I am a little bit... giant. So what? It is much better to be giant than to be a tiny little thing like you.

-Mr Giant, I give you my word that I don't want to marry Miss Beauty. I don't even know her. Nobody has introduced her to me. All I want is to bring those people back to their

13  
homes. It's such a pity to have all those houses empty. Please, help me bring these people back.

The Giant was listening carefully with his wide-open eyes staring at Kafedaki.

-Not a single soul will ever ~~come~~<sup>go</sup> back, he said. I imprisoned them very well, very deep in the earth. I have imprisoned even my own mother and father. You never know who will steal your throne.

-In the earth? What do you mean in the earth?

-Yes, I created an ~~City under the surface of the Earth.~~<sup>underground City</sup>  
In There, I imprisoned all the inhabitants of the Smiling City. Thus the Smiling City became the Silent City, which is very convenient for me. I can hear the least noise from my Castle up here. If any intruder enters the Silent City I know and take precautions. This way I protect my throne and my power against all enemies like you.

Kafedaki wanted to save some time, so he asked:

-You mean to say that you spy day and night? Don't you ever get some sleep?

-Never! If I am dead tired I just sleep with one eye closed. When my right eye gets closed to get some sleep, the left eye remains<sup>?</sup> open and vice versa.

-Dear me, this is terrible. How can you?

-It is a matter of practice. You see?

The Giant closed his right eye. It was obvious that he was very sleepy. He started to snore while his left eye was still open. Kafedaki realized that the Giant was crazy. He realized that he ~~should~~<sup>would have to</sup> handle him in a special way. Crazy people as well as ambitious people and dictators should be treated in a special way. Kafedaki turned to the window and shouted:

-Your Majesty, look there, I see something moving out there...

-What? Your Majesty? Who is the Majesty, me? Well, I like it, I really like it. Isn't it the name the kings have?

-Yes, of course, aren't you a king? Your Majesty, look out there, something suspicious is happening.

-Where? let me see!

14

The Giant ~~wide~~ opened both ~~his~~ <sup>wide</sup> eyes, and looked out of the window. ~~While he was gazing out,~~ Kafedaki took the magic apple ~~from~~ <sup>his pocket and took a big bite.</sup> Kafedaki ~~grasped the opportunity.~~ He bit his magic apple. The Giant disappeared at once. Kafedaki found himself lying on a bed. He was so tired that he didn't even wonder how <sup>he got there.</sup> He just murmured: "Thanks, dear Gazelle, this bed was really what I needed", and he fell asleep.

<sup>u</sup>Antie Melpo was tired. She had been reading from Sunday's cup for a long time. She yawned, she leaned her head <sup>back</sup> on her armchair and...started to snore. I turned off my tape recorder, ~~where~~ I had taped Kafedaki's Sunday's cup <sup>s</sup> feat and I slipped away.

MONDAY'S CUP

MONDAY: 11.00

Auntie Melpo is not very friendly with the tape recorder. "I don't like these machines," she murmures, ~~but~~ "Anyhow, let's start."

When Kafedaki woke up he found himself in a dark room without doors or windows. When his eyes got used to ~~the~~ darkness she realized that neither the Giant was there nor anybody else. Kafedaki felt the fear like a pain in his stomach. The same fear that each one of us feels when alone in ~~the~~ darkness. He moved around trying to find out where he was.

-I wish I had a match, he said. Or a candle or a lamp. Something to light the place up ~~for me~~...

-Would a Firefly ~~light~~ do? - a delicate voice next to his ear asked him. It was indeed a firefly. The little insect was shining in the dark.

-Oh, could you please light this place up a little bit? Kafedaki asked.

-How wonderful, said the Firefly. At last, someone <sup>who</sup> knows how to use the word "please".

-What are you talking about? The word "please" is the most common in the whole world. And the easiest to spell, too.

-I can assure you that I only heard this word three times in my whole life, said the Firefly. You see, because of my small size people ask me ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> favours without saying "please". You can't imagine how ~~embarrassing~~ <sup>annoying</sup> this is.

~~Please~~ <sup>please</sup> Would you please, <sup>please</sup> light this place up for me? Kafedaki asked, using the word "please" twice just to satisfy the Firefly.

-Of course, of course I will, the Firefly sang, and she started to dance, jumping up and down and left and right in front of Kafedaki's eyes. She was obviously very happy. Kafedaki felt dizzy as he watched ~~the~~ shiny little thing dancing like this. ~~His eyes crossed~~

-Please, not so fast, please, ~~make it slower~~ <sup>You're making me cross-eyed</sup>

-Oh, excuse me, the Firefly said and she started to sing.

How brightful it is

to have someone say "please"

It makes me shine like a star.

Let me show you where you are.

The Firefly showed him the way towards a staircase ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> a corner of the room. The staircase ~~was~~ <sup>led</sup> leading downstairs and

~~that~~ was obviously the only <sup>way out</sup> ~~exit~~ of the room. Kafedaki followed the Firefly downstairs. He counted more than a thousand stairs.

-This is a quite long staircase, Kafedaki thought. Mr Giant should use an elevator.

-Here we are, Mr Kafedaki, finally the Firefly said. Would you excuse me, I have to climb up to show the way to other visitors. You see, this is the tourist ~~season~~ <sup>season</sup> period.

-Thanks, thanks and once more thanks, Kafedaki said. He was sure that the Firefly was fond of "thanks" as well as ~~she was fond of~~ "please".

Oh, yes, the Firefly was so happy that she made the most graceful walk <sup>to</sup> show one can imagine. So sudden and so fast was the show that Kafedaki almost fell down. The Firefly sang:

When you say please you find everything at ease

When you say thanks all your trouble ends.

Then she said:

-You are kind and gentle even to a tiny little creature like me. This is why I intend to help you even more than I am supposed to. I will show you which way you must go, in order not to get lost. Those who are not polite, those who don't know how to say "please" and "thank you" don't get my help in finding their way. I just leave them alone and most of them make a mess. Well, dear Kafedaki, you see three doors in front of you, don't you? A tall one, a wide one and a small one. You must not go through neither the tall one nor the wide one. You must go through the third one, the smallest. That's all! I have to go now, good bye and good luck.

~~We shall meet again, if you are lucky.~~ <sup>If your luck holds, we'll meet again.</sup>

~~We shall not forget each other if you are unlucky.~~ <sup>Remember that I say till then.</sup>

-Wait, wait a minute, this phrase ...the Gazelle said something like this to me in Sunday's cup; Do you happen to know him? Did he <sup>mention</sup> me to you?

-I can't say <sup>more</sup> anything else, the Firefly said.

-Please, a thousand times please, at least tell me what is there behind the small door?

-Good bye, Kafedaki, said the Firefly and she added as she was flying up the stairs:

If you wish to do your duty,  
~~that is the way towards~~ the Beauty.  
<sup>look to where you'll find</sup>

The Firefly's <sup>song continued as she disappeared up the dark staircase</sup> ~~kept singing as she was going up:~~

When Kafedaki enters your cup  
he will surely bring you luck.

~~He says 'please' and he says 'thanks'~~

~~I think Kafedaki is the best.~~

He says 'thanks' and he says 'please'.  
Now very few use words like these.

Offer visitors ??  
Tourists ??

Kafedaki <sup>star until finally</sup> followed the Firefly's light which moved through the dark like a ~~the Firefly was now looking like a little star going up and up and then she disappeared.~~

-Everybody in this cup speaks in <sup>Such</sup> an enigmatic way, Kafedaki thought. Of course, riddles and enigmas are good because they cultivate the mind. But this is really too much. Let's see now, where are the three doors, oh, yes, here they are.

The first door, the tall one was half open. The second door, the wide one, was half open too. The third door, the smallest was closed and locked.

-Look at that, Kafedaki said to himself, the Firefly said that I should go through the small door but the small door is closed and locked while the other two are half open. Perhaps the Firefly made a mistake. But no, she was very precise. She said that I must go through the smallest door. Well, the easy way is not always the best. Perhaps the Giant left the two doors half open to make me go through either of them. Yes, this must be a trap. The Giant is waiting for me behind those doors. No, Mr. Giant, I am <sup>cleverer</sup> ~~more clever~~ than you <sup>think</sup> ~~are~~. I will take the hard way.

So, Kafedaki tried to open the third door, the smallest. He tried several times but it was impossible. The door was double locked. Kafedaki said to himself:

-I must not panic. For each problem there is a solution and most of the times the solution is too simple for us to see it. Let's think now, what do we usually do when we find ourselves in front of a closed door? Of course, why didn't I think of it? The first thing <sup>to</sup> ~~we~~ do is... <sup>to</sup> ~~we~~ knock <sup>at</sup> ~~L~~ the door.

Kafedaki <sup>at</sup> knocked the door. An angry voice replied from inside:

I don't think this translates into English.

"-You can knock as strong as you wish on a deaf person's door"... (proverb) Who's <sup>there</sup> ~~is that~~? Who is knocking?

-Me!

-What do you mean "me"? Who is "me"? Everybody is "me", even I am "me". Don't you have a name?

-It's me, Kafedaki.

-And you want me to believe that you are really Kafedaki? Everybody says "I am Kafedaki" so that I open the door for them.

Kafedaki was very proud. It seemed that he was well known in this cup.

-I assure you that I am the real Kafedaki, he said. Would you please <sup>?</sup> open the door for me?

18  
Again, problems with the proverb

-Since you said "please" you must be the real Kafedaki. Wait, I'll get the key. Where on earth did I put it? [It is true that "whoever has no mind has feet to walk" (proverb)] Ah, here <sup>it</sup> is ~~the~~ key.

-Oh, I am so glad you found it because I am starving Kafedaki said.

-Shame on you to enter a stranger's house and ask for food. "The wise man's son always cooks before getting hungry" (proverb). Before I open I want you to look around and see if anybody has followed you. That stupid Giant "grows where he was not planted". (proverb) It is better for us to take precautions. "Take care of your dresses so that you keep at least half of them." (proverb)

-I don't think there is anybody around here, Kafedaki said.

-Well, let him dare to appear and I will knock him down.

"The thief succeeds once or twice but the third time he gets caught." (proverb).

-Oh, please, open this door. I am not only starving, I am also dying of thirst.

?  
-"Whoever is in a hurry falls down the step" (proverb) the voice said as the door was opening at last. The light was as strong as the sunshine, maybe stronger. Kafedaki was astonished. In front of him there was a garden full of trees.

-What do you want? Don't you know that "whoever carries chicken food is being bitten by the chicken"? (proverb) Come in... so you are the famous Kafedaki? Good heaven! "Even if you are promised lots of ~~cherise~~ <sup>S</sup> take with you a tiny basket" (proverb).  
~~cherries~~

a little old lady ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> standing in front of Kafedaki <sup>was</sup> ~~she had~~ <sup>with</sup> a ~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> angry face.

-What does that mean? Kafedaki asked.

-What?

-That, with the ~~cherise~~ <sup>cherries</sup> and the basket...

-Oh, that. "Even if you are promised lots of ~~cherise~~ <sup>cherries</sup>, take with you a tiny basket." Well this is one of my best proverbs. It means that so much was ~~told~~ <sup>said</sup> about Mr. Kafedaki that I was expecting to see some tough guy, tall and strong and instead here you are, a funny little man.

-This goes for both of us, because I heard so much about Missus Angry and instead I see a nice little old lady, Kafedaki answered.

-Dear me, <sup>aren't</sup> ~~we~~ <sup>9</sup> (we are not) good enough for you? And if I may ask, how do you know that my name is Angry?

-Of course I know, ~~it~~. You <sup>I bring</sup> have many <sup>kind</sup> regards from your cousin, Missus Happy.

-I don't believe you. My cousin Happy was killed many years ago, when we left our Smiling City.

-Well, I <sup>can</sup> tell you that your cousin is very <sup>much</sup> alive and she still bakes her famous pies. Here, this pie is for you. She sends it to you with all her love for your afternoon coffee.

Kafedaki gave the old woman the pie.

-Your cousin says that she is waiting for you to ~~go there~~ <sup>return</sup> and start quarreling with her.

Missus Angry was very surprised.

-You kept my pie in spite of the fact that you were so hungry? she said.

-Well, two more minutes and your pie would have dissapeared into my empty stomach, Kafedaki ~~laughed~~.

Misses Angry didn't say anything. ~~The~~ <sup>A</sup> Angry people don't usually know how to express their gratitude or their ~~satisf~~satisfaction. They don't even know how to be happy, so they just remain silent. She started to eat the pie. It was soft and delicious. It reminded her of her home in the Smiling City and her cousin's wonderful kitchen where she baked her pies. The City was not deserted then, it was full of people, animals, life...

Kafedaki watched her as she was eating the pie and his mouth ~~was full of saliva~~ <sup>began to water</sup>. He turned his eyes away, towards the garden. ~~God,~~ <sup>Goodness,</sup> so many trees full of fruits. Apples, pears, oranges, peaches, pomegranates, figs, bananas, vines, almonds, nuts, ~~cherries~~ <sup>cherries</sup>. All the fruits ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> you ~~could~~ <sup>could</sup> ever dream <sup>about</sup> and even more. Kafedaki's stomach felt empty. He wished he could ~~take~~ <sup>have</sup> some of ~~those~~ <sup>that</sup> fantastic fruits. Missus Angry noticed ~~it~~ <sup>this</sup> and said:

"If you are offered food eat it, if you are ~~being~~ beaten run away." (proverb). Come, take this basket and collect as <sup>much</sup> many fruits as you wish. ~~Fast,~~ <sup>Quickly, though!</sup> don't make me lose my patience!

Kafedaki wanted nothing else. He ~~grasped~~ <sup>took</sup> the basket and started to collect and eat fruits. He climbed ~~on~~ <sup>the</sup> a cherry tree and ate as many cherries ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> he could. Then he ate bananas, peaches, apricots and mandarines <sup>I</sup>. Missus Angry was amazed.

"Whoever wants too much loses everything" (proverb) she

-What does this mean? Kafedaki asked with his mouth full of ~~fruit juices~~. *juicy fruit.*

-It means that if you eat too much you will get sick. "Not too little not too much, this is the best". This is an ancient Greek proverb.

-Missus Angry, do you always use proverbs when you speak?

-Obviously, said Missus Angry. Don't you see, this is the only way for me to remember my country, my home and my own grandmother? Here in this terrible place, a thousand metres ~~down the earth~~ *underground* where that stupid Giant brought us, nothing real exists. Everything is artificial. The plants, the animals, even ~~us~~ *us*, the people, are artificial, though they look ~~like~~ real.

-Artificial? You mean to say that the fruits that I ate ~~are~~ *is* not real? ~~Are they false? they tasted very real~~ *enough* to me.

-You, poor thing, you were so hungry that everything eatable seemed perfect to you. Of course they are false, they were created in ~~the laboratories~~ *a laboratory*. The earth, the light, the air and the water that were used for them to grow were all chemical. The sun...

-I don't believe it. You mean that all this light is artificial too?

-Of course. Look here. This is just an artificial sun, an electronic sun.

Kafedaki was speechless. He could not believe that all those amazing things around ~~were~~ *him* not real. ~~Exactly like the films of~~ *This was* science fiction ~~on the T.V.~~ *film* He got a handful of soil and took a good look at it. ~~He~~ *he* smelled it. The soil did not have ~~neither the colour nor the smell of real soil.~~ It smelled like medicine and its ~~colour~~ *colour* was dark ash-grey. That Giant, he thought of everything...

-No, no, don't ~~you~~ think that the Giant thought of all this. Missus Angry said, as if she had read Kafedaki's thoughts. "He is an idiot. He just gathered all our scientists in his ~~laboratories~~ *laboratories* and forced them to work. He threatened them that he ~~would~~ not unlock the doors unless they finished the plan. This is why I collect my proverbs.

-What do the proverbs have to do with all ~~this~~ *is*? Kafedaki wondered.

-A lot. The proverbs are like hot pancakes and pies just baked by my cousin, Happy. You know, I have a whole trunk full of proverbs. I collect proverbs the same way that other people collect stamps or coins. Do you happen to know any proverbs to ~~offer me for~~ *add to* my collection?

Kafedaki thought hard but he could not remember any proverbs. It <sup>had</sup> never occurred <sup>r</sup> to him that he might some day need them so he <sup>had</sup> never bothered to learn any. What a pity, he thought, how happy would Misses Angry now be with a new proverb. ~~Next time~~ <sup>from now on,</sup> I will collect all the proverbs that I come across ~~with~~.

( At that point Aunt Melpo, who, as <sup>you'll</sup> we remember was reading this story from Monday's coffee cup, in her excitement ~~she~~ forgot for a second that she was the storyteller. She leaned her head over the cup, and whispered to Kafedaki:)

-Kafedaki, I will tell you a proverb for Misses Angry's collection. "If you do something good keep it ~~as~~ a secret and then throw your secret in the sea" (proverb)

Kafedaki repeated. "Do something good and keep it a secret that you throw into the sea." Misses Angry was so happy!

-This is the best proverb of my whole collection, she said. Come, Kafedaki, let me show you my collection. You know, you are the first one to be allowed to <sup>see</sup> my proverb trunk. Except of course for the Beauty.

As soon as Kafedaki heard the word "Beauty" <sup>he</sup> jumped up. -Where is she? Where is the Beauty? <sup>he</sup> asked. I have to free her at once.

Misses Angry got really angry this time. -Why are you in such a hurry? Didn't we say that "whoever is in a hurry falls down the step"? If you free her now that our story is still in Monday's cup what will happen at the end of the week, <sup>is</sup> ~~until~~ Saturday's cup? -"The faster <sup>is</sup> the better" (proverb) Kafedaki said. <sup>quicker</sup>

(Well, as you <sup>probably</sup> suspect, Auntie Melpo <sup>had</sup> interfered once more, whispering to Kafedaki this proverb that he just said)

-Well, well, Kafedaki, Misses Angry said. You are becoming an expert on proverbs too. Come, let me show you my collection.

Misses Angry opened her proverb trunk and she showed Kafedaki all the proverbs that she had been collecting for a hundred years.

-Later on, when you enter Tuesday's cup, <sup>will you</sup> don't forget to collect for me all the proverbs you find there, ~~Oh~~ Kafedaki? Misses Angry begged Kafedaki.   
she almost

Kafedaki promised. Then he started to count all ~~these~~<sup>the</sup> proverbs in Miss~~es~~ Angry's trunk. He ~~counted~~<sup>had</sup> up to two hundred ~~sixty~~<sup>and</sup> eight ~~and then~~<sup>before</sup> he fell asleep ~~in the trunk.~~

Auntie Melpo got up.

-I must prepare lunch, she said. We will continue tomorrow.

## TUESDAY'S CUP

TUESDAY: 11 P.M.

Auntie Melpo sits comfortably in her armchair waiting for me to switch on the tape recorder (she <sup>has</sup> got used to it now) and then she starts:

"When the cat's away, the mice will play."  
 "When the cat is absent the mice take the chance to have a party" (proverb). This proverb was the first thing that came into Kafedaki's mind as soon as he woke up in Missus Angry's proverb trunk. He opened his eyes and... screamed:

-Dear me, where am I? I am floating in the water.

The trunk was indeed floating like a little boat. Kafedaki was sitting in it among all those proverbs. He was shivering from fear.

-Don't be scared, Kafedaki, I am here with you, said a sweet voice that was coming from... the <sup>end/tip</sup> edge of his nose.

-Who is there, who is talking to me? he asked.

-It's me, don't you see me?

The only creature he could see was a tiny little spider.

-That's right, it's me. Please forgive me for not stopping my work but you see, time is running <sup>out</sup> and I have to finish this.

Kafedaki noticed that the spider had weaved her web all around the trunk. She was weaving fast and properly, like a real weaver.

-I have to finish this at once otherwise the witchcraft will spoil everything.

-Which witchcraft? what are you talking about? Where are we? What is this water around us?

-Oh, Kafedaki you know nothing at all. This is the river... Up-down-in-out-back-front.

-What? How did you call the river? Up-...

-Shhhh! Wait! You must <sup>say</sup> pronounce it all at once without any mistakes or stops. All in one breath. If you make a mistake you have to start right from the beginning.

-From the beginning? You mean from Sunday's cup? From the snake-cat and the Gazelle?

-That's right. You have to go back to the Silent City, find the Gazelle, Missus Happy and the Firefly, then meet Missus Angry and her trunk. Bear in mind that if you lose one or two proverbs on the way, you'd better get lost too.

He doesn't want to go back to the beginning like a game<sup>24</sup> of Snakes and Ladders. He wants to finish with the seven cups and see what happens at the end.

Kafedaki felt very embarrassed. No, he didn't want to start from the beginning, as if playing one of those games with the little snakes and the stairs. If you throw the dice and get the wrong number then the snake swallows you and you have to go down to the bottom and start from the beginning... No, this is not what he wants. He wants to finish with the seven cups, and see what happens at the end. Kafedaki breathed deeply and said:

-Up-down-in-out-back-front! Is <sup>that</sup> it right?

He turned triumphantly to the spider. ~~God, what was that? The spider was no more there.~~ <sup>but the spider was no longer</sup> Instead there was a beautiful girl, sewing a piece of cloth. Without interrupting her work the girl said to him with a lovely smile:

-Here you are, Kafedaki, you were looking for the Beauty, weren't you? Well, I am the Beauty.

Kafedaki didn't know what to say. <sup>He had never seen anyone as pretty as</sup> The Beauty ~~was so~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>his tongue</sup> could not move in his mouth. She seemed to enjoy the whole situation, but without stopping her work even for a minute.

-Come, Kafedaki, help me to put this cloth around the trunk, will you? ~~Hurry up,~~ <sup>there is no time to lose.</sup>

Kafedaki helped her without knowing what she intended to do. The trunk ~~kept~~ <sup>continued</sup> floating in the river. All of a sudden, Kafedaki saw a terrible dark rock coming towards them. ~~Rather,~~ <sup>moving rapidly</sup> the trunk was going towards the rock.

-This is the end, ~~What a pity,~~ <sup>haven't even had a</sup> he thought. I've just met the Beauty, I ~~didn't~~ <sup>haven't even had a</sup> have the chance to ask her which is her favourite sweet. Creme caramelle or nougatine?

Kafedaki was so confused that he didn't know what he was doing. ~~On the contrary~~ <sup>enough,</sup> The Beauty was absolutely calm. She fixed the cloth over the trunk like a cap and then she started to blow it <sup>up</sup> with a pump. Very soon the trunk with the cloth around it turned into a big balloon that started to fly up and up carrying Kafedaki and the Beauty in it.

-Don't move, stay still, the Beauty said. We will soon be up in the sky, the mountain will not be able to reach us. If you feel dizzy take one of these menthol bonbons, they are really good.

Kafedaki was very scared.

-Dear me, he said, we are really flying. I can see the mountain down there. There are some terrible beasts ~~looking at~~ <sup>watching</sup> us.

antennae

-Those are the bears with the ~~antennas~~, said the Beauty.

-I never heard of bears with antennae before. I have heard of butterflies with antennae, bees with antennae, televisions with antennae but not bears with antennae.

-That's it, Kafedaki. Those antennae are like the T.V. antennae. The only difference is that instead of showing films they spy <sup>on</sup> us and our movements. You know, they are listening to our conversation right now...

-I don't believe it! Well, let me tell them a joke about that bear who had his tail cut <sup>off</sup> and he persuaded all the bears to cut their tails...

-Wrong, Kafedaki! First of all the story is <sup>about</sup> mentioning a fox, not a bear. The bears have short tails anyhow. Secondly, those bears down there on the mountain don't like jokes. ~~Actually~~, they never laugh. They are electronic, computerised bears. They just transmit whatever they hear. They are the Giant's spies. Have you ever seen a laughing machine?

No, Kafedaki had never seen a laughing machine. ~~The Cars~~ don't laugh, ~~the~~ washing machines don't laugh either; nor ~~do~~, of course, ~~the~~ <sup>do</sup> sewing machines. On the television sometimes the actors laugh but this is something else. Kafedaki kept watching the robot-bears. One of them ~~slung~~ <sup>threw</sup> something ~~against~~ <sup>at</sup> their balloon.

-Bend down, Kafedaki, bend down at once, the Beauty shouted.

Kafedaki bent down, just in time to avoid a huge watermelon. -Look at that, the bears are having a good time, eating watermelons and sending us some. What a pity that we didn't catch it. ~~It~~ looks delicious and I am so thirsty.

-You understand nothing, Kafedaki. That was a bewitched watermelon. You are lucky that it did not hit you, otherwise ~~now~~ you would have turned into a cockroach.

-Oh, no, I don't like cockroaches. ~~They're~~ disgusting, especially when they fly.

-~~Bend~~ <sup>Keep</sup> down, Kafedaki, ~~it is coming again...~~ <sup>here comes another one</sup>, said the Beauty.

A beautiful melon was just passing next to him.

-This time I'll catch you, Kafedaki said, and without thinking he grasped the melon.

Before ~~even being able to~~ <sup>he knew</sup> realize what was happening, he ~~felt~~ ~~that~~ he could no <sup>longer</sup> ~~more~~ speak. Instead of a mouth he now had a beak. His arms were gradually turning into wings and feathers started to grow all over his body. ~~Soon he became a sparrow.~~ <sup>In a very short time he had</sup> turned ~~into~~ a sparrow.

-Oh, Kafedaki, you ~~didn't~~<sup>wouldn't</sup> listen to me, so ~~look now what~~<sup>and now look what's</sup> happened to you. Now I must go! If you are lucky we shall meet again, if you are unlucky we shall not forget each other. ~~If your luck holds, we'll meet again. Remember what I say till then.~~

After ~~the Beauty~~<sup>With</sup> said these words, she made a hole on the balloon, stepped out on ~~a~~<sup>to</sup> black cloud that was passing by and disappeared. Poor Kafedaki tried to speak to her, tried to ask her where she was going, ~~but all he could hear was a sparrow's voice. If I can sing like a bird, he thought, perhaps I can fly too, and he~~<sup>but all he could hear was a sparrow's voice. If I can sing like a bird, he thought, perhaps I can fly too, and he</sup> started to ~~move~~<sup>flap</sup> his wings, ~~up~~<sup>up</sup> and down the same way that the birds ~~do when they fly~~. What a wonderful surprise! He could fly! He moved them faster. He wanted to reach the black cloud ~~from~~<sup>from</sup> which ~~the Beauty's voice could still be heard~~.

-Kafedaki, try to climb the Rainbow. I will be there. Good bye...

The cloud was ~~going~~<sup>rising</sup>, up and up, ~~Kafedaki could not follow it anymore. His wings were small and weak. He was sorry for not being able to reach the Beauty, but soon he forgot about it.~~<sup>until</sup> The feeling of flying was so wonderful. From up there everything looked small and lovely, the people, the trees, the animals. They all looked like toys.

-No wonder ~~why~~ birds are always happy and sing all the time, Kafedaki thought. It is because they don't see the ugly part of earth. They just see the beautiful part. The sea shines so bright, you don't see the garbage or the dirt. The cities look so calm and quiet. You don't hear the noise, you don't notice the pollution. Oh, I like it up here. I think I'll stay here for ever...

But then he remembered the Beauty travelling, because of his mistake, on a black cloud, driven who knows where, perhaps into the Giant's prison. This thought made him shiver.

-I have no right to run away like this. I am the brave Kafedaki of the Cups, the Hero of Auntie Melpo and the Knight of the Coffee. I can't let ~~down~~<sup>down</sup> the Beauty, ~~and~~<sup>nor</sup> Missus Happy or ~~not~~ even her cousin, Missus Angry. Everybody is waiting for me to ~~give~~<sup>bring</sup> ~~back~~<sup>back</sup> life to the Silent City. And then, what about all those miserable people sighing in the earth and asking: WHY? WHY? WHY? The fact that I now have wings and am able to fly does not give me the right to forget ~~the~~ other people and be indifferent of their suffering.

As soon as Kafedaki took ~~the~~<sup>his</sup> big decision to save the world, he moved his wings as fast and as strong as he could, not just like a sparrow, but like a gorgeous eagle. Such was the strength of his movement that... he flew out of Tuesday's cup.

he found that his wings became ~~stronger~~<sup>more powerful</sup> and he moved with the speed and strength of an eagle

Auntie Melpo left ~~the~~ Tuesday's cup <sup>its saucer</sup> on the plate.

-Let's give Kafedaki a whole day off, she said. Let him enjoy his wings, let him fly like a bird. He deserves it. It's over for today.

I ~~tried~~ <sup>wanted</sup> to explain <sup>to</sup> Auntie Melpo that Kafedaki is nothing more than an ~~imaginative~~ <sup>imaginary</sup> figure in a cup of coffee, that it is not possible for him to exist outside the cup. But Auntie Melpo has fixed ideas about certain things. I didn't want to make her mad again and perhaps ~~put my back's existence in danger~~ <sup>refuse to continue to the end of the story,</sup> so I didn't say anything. Anyway, I had started to get involved in it too and to tell you the truth I enjoyed it. So, let Kafedaki have a day off!

-Come, try this bitterlemon sweet that I made with my own hands, Auntie Melpo said.

I switched off my tape recorder, I ate the delicious bitter lemon sweet, drank the refreshing cool water and left without getting an answer to my question: What did Kafedaki do with his sparrow's wings for a whole day and a whole night outside Auntie Melpo's cup? And what if he never comes back in Wednesday's cup?

## WEDNESDAY'S CUP

WEDNESDAY: 11.00

I ~~throw~~ <sup>glance quickly</sup> a glimpse into Auntie Melpo's Wednesday's cup. There he is, naughty little Kafedaki already in place. Auntie Melpo notices my joy and says:

-Come and see the Rainbow. You see? It's not just ~~in~~ my imagination.

Indeed, I <sup>can</sup> ~~see~~ the Rainbow. Wide, bright, comfortable. From one end of the cup to the other. Auntie Melpo ~~started~~: *continues her story:*

Frrrr!! The sparrow-Kafedaki rushed into the Rainbow. Flying up was not so easy but the way down was just a game. He just relaxed and let his body slide down, exactly as the children do when they play ~~(in a slider?)~~ <sup>on a slide</sup> in the park.

-Hurra!! tsiou, tsiou, the sparrow-Kafedaki sang as he ~~was falling~~ <sup>slid</sup> down. In his excitement he did not notice that the Rainbow was rooted in the earth and that he was ~~slipping~~ <sup>hurtling</sup> with force into a large underground hole. As soon as he recovered from the shock he found himself lying in a strange huge room with black and white squares on the floor, exactly like ~~the~~ a chessboard. ~~Soon he was to realize that it was indeed the Giant's chessboard.~~ <sup>He soon came to realize that it was a chessboard</sup> There he was, the Giant himself, moving his horrible hands over Kafedaki. Poor sparrow-Kafedaki ~~was~~ trembling ~~and~~ from fear.

The Giant grasped him with one hand and lifted him up. Oh, how terrible his face was.

-Let's see what we have here, the Giant groaned. Ho ho ho, did you have the illusion that this fancy dress would save you? Let me ~~depilate~~ <sup>remove</sup> these feathers ~~to~~ <sup>and</sup> see what's ~~in~~ <sup>(there under)</sup> it..

The horrible Giant started to pull off sparrow-Kafedaki's feathers. Poor Kafedaki without his feathers looked like a naked chicken. Finally the Giant pulled off his beak and said, ~~to him~~ bursting into laughter.

-That's better, Mr Kafedaki. Now, tell me. What do you prefer, me to smash you under my foot like an ant or you to act ~~in my chess~~ <sup>on my board?</sup> as a chessman? You see, one of my white soldiers is missing because he fainted during the game.

Kafedaki took a good look around. The chessmen looked like statues, ~~as they were~~ standing motionless on their squares. But

they were not statues. They were real men and women. The Kings, the Queens, the <sup>Bishops</sup> Officers, the <sup>Knights</sup> Horses, the <sup>Castles</sup> Towers, the <sup>pawns</sup> soldiers, all of them were human beings, half of them dressed in white and half of them dressed in black.

-My God, Kafedaki thought, a human chess <sup>board</sup> for the Giant to pass his time. How awful.

-Answer me, what do you prefer? I am in a hurry to continue my game. Chess or death?

-Oh, chess is a magnificent game, Kafedaki said. It makes you use your brain. I'd be delighted to be a chessman <sup>on</sup> your chessboard, Mr Giant.

-Now you are being sensible. O.K. take your place in the empty space.

Kafedaki put on the white dress and took <sup>his</sup> the place <sup>on</sup> the chessboard. The Giant started to play, talking to himself:

-Let's see now, it's the whites' turn to move. I am moving this <sup>pawn</sup> soldier here, and now I am moving the <sup>black knight</sup> black horse and then the white queen.

When Kafedaki found himself next to the white Queen she whispered to him:

-Kafedaki, don't move. Pretend that you don't know me.

That voice, it sounded so familiar. Of course, it was the Beauty's voice. Kafedaki almost cried with joy! Can you imagine? <sup>T</sup> The white Queen of the Giant's <sup>board</sup> chess was the Beauty. It was obvious that the Giant had not noticed it. He continued to play, thinking that his white Queen was any ordinary girl from the Silent City. Kafedaki had an idea.

-Dear Mr Giant, he said, excuse me but how is it possible for you to play chess this way?

-Which way, what do you mean? The Giant was angry because Kafedaki had interrupted him.

-Well, <sup>It's</sup> my opinion a champion cannot play just by himself. This is a game for ladies or children if I may say so. Actually it is the most boring game I have seen in my whole life. You <sup>for</sup> never know when you win, you never know when you lose. You win <sup>L</sup> yourself and you defeat yourself <sup>at the same time.</sup>

The Giant was confused. He was offended by Kafedaki's words but on the other hand he <sup>had to</sup> <sup>L</sup> admitted that Kafedaki was right. This chess game was not interesting at all.

-It is true that it is boring to play with oneself. But whom could I play with? Everybody in this Silent City is stupid and ignorant. There is nobody clever enough to be my <sup>companion</sup> in the game. <sup>opponent</sup>

-I agree with you, <sup>try to</sup> you are the world champion. Actually we should <sup>try to</sup> get someone equal to you though I doubt ~~if~~ whether we can find one. In the mean time, you should practice somehow. I myself play chess but I would never dare play with a world champion like you.

The Giant knew that Kafedaki was right. The game was quite boring. It would be exciting for him to play with a strong opponent and win. He made up his mind.

<sup>Besides, while</sup>  
-O.K. Kafedaki, I will play chess with you. Keeping you <sup>you're here</sup> ~~here~~ <sup>with me, there's no chance of you</sup> ~~under my sight~~ <sup>pawn</sup> ~~I am not afraid of you~~ escaping and stealing my crown. Well, let's start, you take the black and I take the white. Eh, you <sup>pawn</sup> soldier, back to your position now, you have rested enough.

<sup>sleeping pawn</sup>  
The Giant kicked the ~~lying soldier~~ with his foot and he got up at once, taking his place on the chessboard.

-Ready, I play first, the Giant said, and started to move his chessmen. For poor Kafedaki who was so small it was not so easy to run from one part of the room to the other to move his chessmen. Soon he was out of breath.

"It is good for one to learn a craft, even if one does not use it" (proverb) he said.

-What did you say? the Giant asked.

-Well, it's just a proverb that I have learned from a friend of mine, he explained, nothing important.

-You mean to say that you collect proverbs like that crazy old woman?

-Oh, no, no, what would I do <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ useless proverbs? It was just a way for me to express my admiration for your special talent in chess playing. Never in my life have I seen someone playing like you, Mr Champion. What an honour for me to play with you...

<sup>To tell you the truth,</sup>  
Of course, the Giant is not at all a World champion. <sup>in fact, terrible</sup> ~~In fact~~ he is a ~~lousy~~ chess player. But Kafedaki knows very well that the Giant loves to be flattered. Who doesn't? Even ~~the~~ clever people do, but the more stupid one is the more one likes to be flattered.

<sup>overwhelmed</sup>  
-Mr <sup>chess,</sup> Champion, I am ~~speechless~~ <sup>skilled at</sup> by your ~~art~~ <sup>skill at</sup> in ~~chess~~ playing, <sup>he</sup> he continued. The Giant was very pleased.

-Come on, play, play, he said.

<sup>the game even more interesting?</sup>  
~~Don't you like to bet something? Why don't be bet something to make~~

-What? <sup>Do</sup> you want me to bet my castle? Or my crown? That's it, you want to take my crown and my castle, this is why you want to bet with me.

-For God's sake, what would I do with your castle? Do you think that I would like to stay for ever in this underground world? Oh, no thanks, I'd rather be in the open air, to enjoy the warm sun and the blue sky. But knowing how clever you are, I would like to make an agreement with you: If I win you will let me go. If you win you will have the <sup>chance</sup> ~~possibility~~ to get rid of me by throwing me out of here.

*Not being very bright,* the Giant was not sure whether Kafedaki's proposal was ~~for~~ good or ~~for~~ bad <sup>for him</sup>. It was all <sup>so</sup> confusing for him. Anyhow, for the moment he only wanted to play.

--Let's play now, he said.

~~Kafedaki~~ <sup>They</sup> played for about one hour. He was dead tired running up and down ~~in~~ the Giant's chessboard. ~~At a certain moment he found~~ <sup>However, he did give him</sup> the chance to whisper to the Beauty:

-Be ready to run away with me as soon as I tell you.

The Giant was very pleased for being able to play chess with somebody else. He was completely <sup>engrossed</sup> ~~dedicated~~ to the game and did not pay attention to what was happening around. He even forgot about the thieves who might steal his crown and his throne. As the game was going on Kafedaki managed to win the Giant's Queen (that is the Beauty).

-Checkmate Mr Giant, he said. I think I won. Now, will you let me go as we agreed?

-That's a lie, you didn't win. I won.

-You are right, you won. Now, will you throw me out of your kingdom?

-You stay <sup>off</sup> where you are and play, otherwise I'll have your head cut <sup>off</sup>. How dare you say that you won?

The Giant was really wild. Kafedaki was frightened. He had realized that the Giant, like all ~~the~~ stupid people that have the power <sup>on</sup> their side, <sup>would</sup> never ~~will~~ admit ~~his~~ defeat. Kafedaki knew that now he ~~would~~ <sup>have to</sup> use his brain. He continued to play for a while, ~~so~~ his mind ~~was~~ working. He made mistakes on purpose, so that the Giant ~~won~~ <sup>won</sup> the game. ~~And indeed he won.~~

-I admit my defeat, Mr Giant, he said. How did I dare to play chess with the World Champion?

-Just because you admit the truth, the Giant said, I will not have your head cut <sup>off</sup>. After all I need you to play chess with.

-Yes, your Majesty.

-What did you say? Majesty? Hmm I like it.

~~got~~ <sup>take</sup> -Your Majesty, if I have your permission I would like to <sup>can</sup> ~~take~~ a nap. I need to get my strength back, so that I can play with you again. You see, sleeping and rest clear ~~the~~ <sup>one's</sup> mind and give ~~one~~ the chance to play well.

The Giant <sup>became</sup> ~~got~~ suspicious.

-He wants to sleep in order to win the next game, he thought. Well, what about poor me who never sleeps properly. When one of my eyes is closed to sleep the other one is open to watch my throne. Perhaps I should <sup>take</sup> ~~got~~ a nap too, to regain my power. Why don't I ask him. He seems to know a lot of things this Kafedaki.

The Giant asked:

-Tell me, Kafedaki, what happens to those who never sleep? Do they become stupid?

-Well, your Majesty, ~~this is a well-known secret~~. The wise people say that "sleeping is like food". Well, good night, your Majesty, I have to go to sleep. See you in the morning. And good luck for tomorrow's game.

After these words, Kafedaki closed ~~his~~ eyes and started to snore. The chessmen (who as we know are real people) started to yawn one after the other.

-Good night, said the two Kings.

-Good night, said the two Queens.

-~~Good~~ night, said the <sup>pawns</sup> ~~Soldiers~~, the <sup>Bishops</sup> ~~Officers~~, the <sup>Knights</sup> ~~Horses~~ and the <sup>Castles</sup> ~~Towers~~.

In a few moments all were lying on the floor, snoring.

The Giant tried to keep his eyes open but it was impossible. He intended to shout <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ them, to be angry, but he could not. He kept closing one of his eyes. At the end he could not help it anymore. He closed both his eyes. His snoring almost broke Wednesday's cup. Hrrrrr, Hrrrrr, Hrrrrr.

<sup>Goodness,</sup> ~~My God,~~ I almost fell asleep myself over the tape/recorder though it is <sup>only</sup> ~~still~~ midday. Auntie Melpo's voice woke me up.

-How quiet everybody sleeps, she said.

I looked in Wednesday's cup. Indeed everybody was sleeping <sup>soundly</sup> ~~nice~~. I collected my things. I really enjoy Kafedaki's adventures. See you tomorrow...

THURSDAY'S CUP

THURSDAY: 11.00

- "Sleeping, laughing, and crying are contagious, like the 'flu" Auntie Melpo said when I apologized for ~~my yesterday's~~ falling asleep ~~together~~ with <sup>Wednesday's</sup> the cup's heroes. "Look at them, they are still sleeping this morning, in Thursday's cup."

*She was right.*

~~Indeed~~ I saw them all sleeping; the Giant, the chessmen, even the Beauty, still dressed as the white Queen. But not Kafedaki. He was the only one that was awake. The whole night he <sup>lay awake</sup> kept thinking <sup>about how they could</sup> ~~how to find a way to~~ get out of that underground prison.

-Wake up, Beauty, wake up, he whispered. We have to get away.

-Oh, that was a lovely sleep, the Beauty said. Dear me, Kafedaki, let's hurry. Let's take the Giant's belt. This is the only way to get us out of here. All his power is in that belt.

-Are you serious, how can one steal this monster's belt without him noticing it? Let's think.

Kafedaki has a rule, that each problem has a solution, if one thinks about it.

- "Three persons together can beat a <sup>single</sup> person", (proverb) Kafedaki said. (Well, actually Auntie Melpo whispered it to him and he repeated it.) We must give this proverb to Missus Angry for her collection, because I think it is very important. Come on, Beauty, wake these lazy people, <sup>quickly.</sup> ~~They must work a little bit.~~ <sup>There is work to be done</sup>

The Beauty woke all the chessmen ~~and~~ <sup>together, they set about the</sup> and, they all started to ~~work in order to take off~~ <sup>difficult task of removing</sup> the Giant's belt. Some ~~of them~~ brought chairs to climb <sup>on,</sup> ~~some others were holding~~ <sup>held</sup> the belt and some ~~were trying to untie it.~~ <sup>while still others tried</sup> You see, a Giant's belt is a giant belt. ~~About ten people were needed to turn the Giant upside down, in order to draw the belt from underneath his body. He was still snoring and noticed nothing except for a moment when he started laughing in his sleep because he was tickled.~~ <sup>With a final tug, they finally</sup> ~~As soon as they~~ <sup>and, as soon as they did so,</sup> pulled the belt off the Giant's body ~~he started to shrink. He shrank and shrank until he became a little man like everybody else.~~ <sup>was no bigger than anyone else</sup>

<sup>remove</sup> and before they could ~~take~~ it, they had to roll him over and pull it from beneath his huge body. As you can imagine, this was a very hard job and there was one dreadful moment when the Giant stopped his snoring. <sup>They all held their breath and waited for him to wake up. But all</sup> ~~They all held their breath and waited for him to wake up. But all~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~pro~~

he did was giggle. You see, the movement of his belt had tickled the Giant. ~~It~~ Fortunately, he didn't wake up and was soon snoring once more.

-Look at him, how funny he looks now that he is ~~no more~~ <sup>not</sup> a Giant <sup>anymore, one of</sup> the chessmen said.

-This <sup>look at him,</sup> is the person that brought so much sorrow to our country. Now <sup>he</sup> is so small and weak.

-Kill him, kill the terrible Giant, they kept saying.

-Well, well, look at you, how brave you are! You <sup>You weren't so</sup> had been <sup>brave when you were</sup> accepting to be the Giant's chessmen. <sup>You didn't try to resist him then</sup> ~~for so long without any~~ <sup>but now that he has lost his strength</sup> resistance and now that he is no more strong you are ready to kill him <sup>in</sup> his sleep. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

-Who are you to tell us what to do? You are just a stranger who entered our City without any invitation, said the Black King.

-That's true, you came here to insult us, a White <sup>pawn</sup> Soldier shouted.

-Let's kill him too, said the White <sup>Castle</sup> Tower.

-Let's tie him up and leave him next to the Giant.

The Beauty, who was next to Kafedaki, grasped the magic belt. The belt had ~~shrunk~~ <sup>so that</sup> ~~too~~ it looked like an ordinary belt. The Beauty tied the belt around Kafedaki's waist. The same instant, Kafedaki started to grow. He grew bigger and bigger until finally he became a Giant Kafedaki. The chessmen were astonished. They started to run around, <sup>desperately trying</sup> ~~to hide themselves.~~ Kafedaki himself did not quite understand what had happened. He only saw that his head was reaching the roof and that the rest of the people looked like dwarves.

-Dear me, how did I <sup>get</sup> climb up here, he said and he <sup>scurrying around his feet.</sup> laughed at all those who were ~~running around to hide.~~

-Attention! he cried.

At once, everybody ~~stood~~ still. Kafedaki's voice echoed like a bell. The ex-Giant woke up. He understood right away what had happened. Now Kafedaki was the Giant and he himself was no more <sup>than</sup> a little man.

-I knew ~~it~~ that you would make a fool out of me. You stole my belt and you became the Master of my Castle. I was so stupid ~~to~~ trust you.

-Attention! Kafedaki cried again. Everybody took their places ~~on~~ the chessboard. The ex-Giant, what else could he do? ~~he~~ also took a place like a chessman.

-Well, Mr ex-Giant, as you see ~~the~~ power <sup>doesn't last</sup> is nothing <sup>forever</sup> ~~eternal~~. It passes from one to the other very <sup>quickly</sup> ~~fast~~. However much you stay alert and watch, however safely you imprison the people <sup>to prevent them stealing</sup> ~~not to~~ steal your power, some day you will lose it if you are not wise and good. Dear Beauty, what is the punishment you propose for this foolish little man who thought he was a Giant?

-I suggest that he remains imprisoned underground <sup>for</sup> as long as he ~~made us stay~~ imprisoned <sup>us</sup>.

-Good idea, and you know what your Majesty? Since you love chess so much I think I'll leave you in here, in the chess room, and let you play chess for ever with these fools.

The chessmen <sup>knelt</sup> ~~kneeled~~ down and begged the Giant Kafedaki:

-Please, Mr Giant, don't do this to us. Don't leave us in here any more.

-We shall become your servants, your slaves, we will kiss your feet morning and night.

-Dear Giant we shall do whatever you order. ~~We~~ shall become like carpets under your feet.

Kafedaki was disgusted.

-Aren't you ashamed of yourselves, to kneel like this in front of me? Is this how you were kneeling in front of him when he was the Giant?

-What can we do, Master? We are nothing but ordinary, unimportant people. How can we survive if we don't kneel?

-Tell me, Beauty, what do you think we should do with all these parasites? Kafedaki asked.

-I think that now there are more important things to do. Let's ~~leave it for~~ <sup>decide</sup> later.

-Good idea, we shall lock them in here and let them learn to play chess.

After locking the door of the chess room behind them,

The Beauty ~~locked the door of the chess room~~ they entered a dark corridor, like a tunnel. All along the tunnel there were iron doors. The Giant Kafedaki was so tall that he had to bend

so as ~~for~~ <sup>to</sup> not hurt ~~his~~ his head on the roof.

-I'll <sup>have to</sup> take off this belt, he said, because I feel really bad. It is an odd feeling to be too short but to be too tall ~~is~~ is dreadful.

He took off his belt and threw it away. He <sup>quickly</sup> ~~shrank~~ again to his normal size.

-Kafedaki, never do this again, the Beauty said. Never throw your power away. Some other tyrant might take it and become the master again. We must take this belt back to the Smiling City and hide it so well that nobody can find it.

Kafedaki admired the Beauty. She was not only beautiful but wise too <sup>and he knew that</sup> ~~this~~ combination of beauty and wisdom is ~~rare~~ <sup>a</sup> rare <sup>gift</sup>.

As they walked together along the dark tunnel Kafedaki asked:

-Tell me, Beauty, what is ~~there~~ behind these iron doors?

-Those are the people's homes, Kafedaki. The Giant locked them up in there. Now we must get the Golden Key to free them.

-How can they live in there? Don't they get out to do their jobs?

-They work in there. It is forbidden for them to meet each other or to talk to each other. The Giant was afraid that if people ~~meet~~<sup>met</sup> they ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> create a revolution to ~~take off~~<sup>remove him from</sup> his power.

-My God, all these years ~~these~~<sup>the</sup> people ~~were~~<sup>have been locked up,</sup> and ~~they~~<sup>nor</sup> neither seeing ~~or~~<sup>speaking</sup> to anybody? And where do they get their food from? How do they get their clothes and shoes? How do they go to the cinema or ~~to~~<sup>have</sup> a picnic?

-Oh, Kafedaki, ~~(you don't)~~ understand that the Silent City is a large prison? Nobody goes to the cinema or to the theatre because there are no ~~X~~ such things. Nobody ~~goes~~<sup>even</sup> for a walk. Every morning the Giant's carriage passes and gives them enough food so that they don't die. Terrible food, not tasty at all, the same every day. Once a year the Giant gives them shoes and clothes that they wear day and night, Summer and Winter.

Kafedaki ~~wanted to ask a lot more.~~<sup>had a lot more questions</sup> For instance how ~~does~~<sup>did</sup> the Giant know their ~~foot size?~~<sup>feet size?</sup> or Where ~~did~~<sup>did</sup> the children play? and ~~lots of other questions,~~<sup>many more</sup> but the Beauty was in a hurry.

-We must get the Golden Key to free those poor people. The fact that we locked up the Giant does not at all mean that we are safe. He has his spies all over. He knows all the secret ways down here. He might find us any moment. We must get the Golden Key before it is too late.

-Well, where is the Golden Key?

-The Golden Key is with Missus Angry. You see, she is the only one except me that is free to ~~go~~<sup>move</sup> around. Only the two of us dared to face the Giant. She will only give the Key to the person who answers the three "WHY"s. This is part of the ~~witchcraft.~~<sup>spell that the City is under.</sup>

-Which are the three "WHY"s?

-Well, there is a ~~witchcraft~~<sup>spell</sup> that says that there are three "why"s and whoever gives answer to them will be able to get the Golden Key to open the prison doors.

-The Sunday's cup "WHYS" said Kafedaki.

-Exactly! Do you happen to remember them?

-Let me see, I think there was a snail whose father was shot...No, there was a child whose house was stolen, no no, Oh, dear Beauty, I am so tired, I can't remember anything.

Kafedaki was indeed very tired. (So was Auntie Melpo who was reading the cup.) The Beauty said to Kafedaki:

-Don't worry, Kafedaki. Perhaps your answer lies in Friday's cup. Rest now <sup>and see</sup> you tomorrow.

-You are right, Beauty. I am sure that tomorrow I will remember everything. Don't go away, and don't turn into some sort of a bee or something like that, because I can't take it any more. ~~O.K.?~~ Agreed?

-~~Agreed~~. You rest now and I will be next to you.

Auntie Melpo ~~gets~~ <sup>es</sup> up and starts ~~SA~~ to collect her cups. As for me, I'm ~~was~~ not willing to go. I would ~~prefer~~ <sup>like</sup> to stay ~~there~~ and remind Kafedaki of the three "WHY's" that I have taped on my recorder. But this can't ~~not~~ be done. No ~~intruder~~ <sup>outsider</sup> can enter the cup's fairy tale. The ~~witchcraft~~ <sup>spell</sup> could be spoiled and then nobody could save ~~it~~ <sup>the Silent City</sup>, neither Kafedaki nor anybody else. I'd rather wait till tomorrow.

## FRIDAY'S CUP

FRIDAY: 11.00

"Oh, life is beautiful, how lucky we are to be alive!"  
With these words Auntie Melpo ~~started~~: *continues her tale:*

Kafedaki was trying very hard to remember the three "WHY's".  
Then finally he shouted:

~~-I found it, I found it!~~ *I've got it! I've got it!*

-Come on, say it, the Beauty said.

-The first "WHY?" was asked *by* the snail. It was a miserable snail, naked, without his shell, complaining:

*A quiet life I used to live,  
A respectable snail I used to be  
never causing pain or fears.  
I never hurt anybody*

*Then strangers came and stole my shell  
leaving me with groans and tears.  
and now I feel like hell.*

Why? Why? Why?

As soon as Kafedaki <sup>had</sup> said the last phrase, <sup>from</sup> behind the closed doors he heard voices shouting:

WHY? WHY? WHY?

-Oh, the poor prisoners heard you, Kafedaki and your presence encouraged them. You know, it seems that you are following the right way. Can you now remember the second "WHY"? the Beauty <sup>asked</sup> ~~said~~ impatiently.

-The second "WHY" was ~~sung~~ by a frightened bird. The bird ~~had~~ said:

My voice <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ sweet

but I <sup>am</sup> ~~was~~ not allowed to sing

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Before Kafedaki finished ~~this~~ last phrase the voices started again, louder this time:

-WHY? WHY? WHY?

-Come on, Kafedaki, so far so good. Now the third "WHY".

Kafedaki concentrated <sup>hard</sup> ~~to~~ as ~~much~~ as he could.

-The third "WHY" was expressed by a child. He ~~had~~ said:  
" I am pale, I am ill, I am an orphan. Why? No, <sup>that's</sup> ~~it was~~ not exactly <sup>it</sup> this.

-Come ~~come~~ on, Kafedaki, Try <sup>again</sup> ~~a bit more~~. What did the child say?

-He said something about his father. That's it, I remember now. He said:

My father was killed/My mother was killed  
I have nobody to live with.  
WHY? WHY? WHY?

Very loud voices were now heard from behind the closed doors.

-WHY? WHY? WHY?

The prisoners were ~~knocking~~ <sup>banging on</sup> the doors and begging:

-Please, open the doors, please, let us out of here. We cannot stand it anymore in these caves.

-The Golden Key, where is it? Kafedaki asked.

-You have not finished yet. Now you must give the three answers to the three "WHY's". ~~Actually~~ <sup>actually</sup> This is the most difficult part. Now, the first "WHY":

~~A respectable snail I used to be~~ <sup>A quiet life I used to live,</sup>  
~~I never hurt anybody~~ <sup>never causing pain or fears</sup>

~~Then~~ <sup>Then</sup> strangers came and stole my shell  
~~and now I fell like hell. Why?~~  
<sup>Leaving me with groans and tears.</sup>

-Well, I guess...I don't know.

-The second...

-I am afraid I don't know that, either.

-The third...

My father was killed, my mother was killed  
I have nobody to live with...

-I think this is about ~~the~~ war. When do mothers and fathers get killed? During ~~the~~ wars.

-That's it. <sup>I think you've</sup> ~~you~~ got it. <sup>Well done,</sup> Hurra, Kafedaki. <sup>In finding</sup> Since you found one answer, <sup>I think</sup> you've found them all. During ~~the~~ wars people lose their homes, children lose their <sup>parents</sup> ~~beloved~~, birds lose their voices.

-Down with ~~the~~ war, Kafedaki said.

-Down with ~~the~~ war, cried the prisoners from behind the locked doors. Please, open up, let us out.

-I still don't have the Golden Key, Kafedaki answered.

-Here it is, I have the Golden Key, a voice <sup>said</sup> from high up ~~from~~ <sup>in</sup> the roof of the tunnel.

Kafedaki and the Beauty ~~turned~~ <sup>looked</sup> up. Who do you think was sitting up there? Missus Angry!! Yes, strangely enough she was moving her hand in a friendly way.

-Hey there, "do something good and let it go" (proverb) This proverb of yours, Kafedaki, is the best. I shall give you the Golden Key but before that you must give me another proverb.

-Here we ~~are~~<sup>go</sup> again, Kafedaki said, <sup>frustratedly,</sup> L Dear Beauty, can you help me?

-All these years I've ~~done~~<sup>done</sup> nothing else but give ~~ing~~<sup>ing</sup> new proverbs to Missus Angry. I'm ~~am~~<sup>am</sup> fed up ~~with it~~<sup>with it</sup>.

-"Meriori has got ~~it~~<sup>it</sup> everything except the hat" (proverb), said Kafedaki. We have so many problems in front of us and yet we must think of proverbs.

-Accepted, Kafedaki, ~~Let~~<sup>Let</sup> me give you the Key. You've ~~just~~<sup>just</sup> earned it.

Missus Ungry tied the Golden Key on a ~~piece~~<sup>piece</sup> of string <sup>dangle only</sup> ~~and~~<sup>but</sup> let it half the way down.

-I need another proverb, she said. Try harder, it is not so difficult.

-For you, of course, it is not difficult. "He who is outside the party knows very well how to dance."(proverb)

-This is another proverb, said the Beauty. Did you know it, Kafedaki?

-Sure, it is another proverb. I am running to put it in my trunk.

-The Key first! Kafedaki shouted.

-O.K., O.K., come on, pick it up. She let the Golden Key fall down at last.

not clear

The Golden Key was good for all the doors <sup>and</sup> Kafedaki started to unlock them.

-Poor people, get out, let me show you to the fresh air. Back to your Smiling City.

The prisoners, one after ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> other, moved towards the ~~exits~~<sup>doors</sup>. First they ~~tried~~<sup>stuck</sup> their heads out to see if it was safe enough. They couldn't believe that they were free. Then they all rushed out ~~and~~<sup>and</sup> ~~stuffed~~<sup>stuffed</sup> into the tunnel. They were pale and weak and miserable and yet they were pushing each other hard to get out first. But the tunnel had no exit.

-Now, what do we do next, dear Beauty? Kafedaki asked.

-I wish I knew, Kafedaki. The only way out is that little window, up there ~~is~~<sup>is</sup> the roof, where Missus Angry was sitting.

-We can't get up there, unless we are Giants.

-The belt! The Giant's belt," they both cried with relief.

As soon as the Beauty tied the belt around Kafedaki's waist he started to grow bigger and bigger until he became ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> Giant Kafedaki again. The people around trembled ~~with~~<sup>with</sup> fear, ~~they~~<sup>thinking</sup> thought ~~that he was the other Giant, the wicked one.~~<sup>that the wicked had returned.</sup>

-God help us, they cried. Here he is again, he will lock us in jail once more.

-Poor us, we are lost, nobody can help us.

-It is our fate, to be slaves, we can't change it. There is no liberty for us.

Kafedaki ~~got~~ <sup>became</sup> impatient with their self-pitying cries.

-Stop it now, all of you.

-WHY? WHY? WHY? The prisoners went on crying.

-Oh, stop grumbling and crying. Why don't you try to do something <sup>for yourselves</sup> instead? Kafedaki said. This is your life for God's sake. You ~~expect other people to save you, while you stay doing nothing but crying for your fate.~~ <sup>about</sup> Have a good look, do I resemble the Giant? Don't you see? <sup>and expecting others to save you?</sup> I am Kafedaki, your friend, and I came to help you out of here. But even if I was the Giant himself, so what? He is only one and you are thousands. If you all stick together you are much stronger than him. And yet look at you, miserable, <sup>terrified</sup> ~~and horrified~~ little creatures.

-Oh, dear Kafedaki, please get us out of here.

"Say, please Saint George help us, but at the same moment do something yourself!" (proverb) Kafedaki said.

-Bravo Kafedaki, this is an excellent proverb. I'll put <sup>that</sup> ~~it~~ in my trunk too, Missus Angry said from up <sup>on</sup> ~~the~~ roof.

The Giant Kafedaki became a sort of human staircase for the prisoners and so one after the other they climbed up and got out of the window with the help of Missus Angry. It took only ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> hour for ten thousand three hundred <sup>and</sup> forty two people to get out. The last one was the Beauty. Kafedaki himself of course did not need to climb anywhere in order to reach the roof. He could ~~just~~ touch it with his hand. The only problem was, ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> as soon as he managed to put his head in the window he untied the magic belt and he became the normal Kafedaki again. <sup>and climbed through. Just</sup> ~~the last moment~~ <sup>about</sup> as he was <sup>trying</sup> to close the window <sup>behind</sup> ~~him,~~ he saw the ex-Giant with the chessmen getting out of the Chess room into the tunnel.

-Please, don't leave us here, the chessmen cried.

-How can we live down here for <sup>ever</sup> ~~ever~~, without sun and light? asked the ex-Giant.

-It's up to you to <sup>find</sup> ~~give~~ the answer, Kafedaki said. Stay there until you answer the three "WHYs".

-But we don't know the answers, the chessmen complained.

-Well, you'll have to work on it, Missus Angry said. Use your brain. It's about time you ~~did~~ <sup>did</sup> that, You got so lazy just serving the Giant for so long. You became spies, <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ the traitors <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ your country. Now you must pay for this. "The thief and the liar are happy only {the first year}"(proverb)

-That's ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> a good proverb, Missus Angry, Kafedaki said. I am going to put it in my collection. You know, I've started a collection too. And here is my proverb for the traitors:

"Good arrangements keep good friends" (proverb). If you are wise you will be free very soon. If not, then I am afraid you ~~will~~<sup>must</sup> stay and guard the Silent City. ~~In the meantime you better find the answers of the three "WHY".~~

Aunt Melpo arranges<sup>s</sup> her cup on ~~the~~<sup>its</sup> little ~~plate~~<sup>saucer</sup>. She seems<sup>s</sup> happy.

-So far so good, she said. Tomorrow is the big finale.

SATURDAY'S CUP

Saturday: 5 minutes to 11.00

coming to Today Aunt Melpo is very excited. Kafedaki's feats are approaching their end. Today she will read for me the last chapter, sorry, the last cup, Saturday's cup. Here it is already, upside down in front of her, Saturday's cup with the white marguerites' design. Auntie Melpo is not here at the moment, she's <sup>gone</sup> ~~went~~ to get something, so I <sup>have a</sup> ~~get~~ the chance to <sup>record</sup> ~~tape~~ these words before she starts the story.

<sup>Earlier</sup> ~~Well - today~~ at about 10.30, Auntie Melpo said to me:

-Do you want me to tell you your fortune?

-My fortune? I wondered.

-Yes, I can read your cup and tell you what is going to happen to you. Turn your coffee cup upside down. Here, put it on this clean <sup>saucer</sup> ~~plate~~. Let it dry and then I will tell you what I see in it.

Auntie Melpo saw a lot of things in my cup. For instance, she told me that a pleasant letter is on its way to me, that I am going to receive some money, that I am going to meet some important people, that I am going to enter an important building etc. In a few words she told me everything that a coffee-cup-fortune-teller usually says. Then I asked:

-Auntie Melpo, do you happen to see in my cup if Kafedaki's book is going to be a success?

Auntie Melpo fixed her glasses on her nose, looked very deep into my eyes and said:

-If you wrote exactly what I was reading in the cups it will definitely be a success. Children understand much more than you think they do.

Here she is, Auntie Melpo is coming back. I don't want her to think that I am gossiping behind her back. Rosemarie the cat is coming ~~along~~ with her. Well, Auntie Melpo? Everybody is <sup>anxious</sup> ~~excited~~ to see the <sup>how</sup> ~~end~~ of our story. <sup>will end</sup> Shall we start?

Kafedaki and the Beauty at last managed to get out / in the open air. <sup>and ran</sup> ~~They run out~~ to the Smiling City together with the ~~thousands of~~ the prisoners <sup>they had freed.</sup> ~~As soon as they got out~~ men, women and children <sup>The prisoners</sup> started to dance and sing, full of joy. They ~~deep~~ breathed <sup>in</sup> the fresh air and ~~men~~ enjoyed the warmth of the sun ~~and the freshness of clear water.~~ ~~Until then the only~~

*It had been so long*

fresh air and  
 since they had enjoyed real water  
 things they could afford for drinking were artificial refreshments. Finally, each one of them rushed to their homes. The houses were of course in ruins. They had to work hard, to clean ~~it~~, to build ~~it~~ to paint, to restore. What a joy for them when they met their relatives ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> the friends.

-Hi, neighbour, they were saying, why don't you join us to have a cup of coffee and remember the good old times. We have been shut up in that hole for so long that time has stopped. Come, let us remember the old jokes...

The most popular joke was the one <sup>about a</sup> ~~of the~~ Giant who ~~shrank~~ <sup>shrank</sup> into a little man. <sup>Mothers came out of their houses</sup> ~~The mothers started~~ to <sup>call to</sup> ~~advise~~ their children who were running in the streets:

-Come in, it is time for you to study.

or

-Time for breakfast ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> lunch ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> dinner.

or

-I need you to fix this and that...

and all ~~these~~ <sup>other</sup> things that usually mothers <sup>↑</sup> tell their children.

Really, though,

~~it was just~~ an excuse for them to get out, to see what ~~other~~ <sup>other</sup> people were doing. But ~~soon~~ <sup>soon</sup> they ~~would~~ <sup>would</sup> forget the ~~reason they~~ <sup>why they'd come out</sup> were out, ~~and they would start~~ <sup>and</sup> chattering with their neighbours.

As soon as Missus Angry settled down and arranged her proverbs in a bigger trunk (the old one was too small for her collection now) she went to surprise her cousin. Kafedaki, who did not want to miss that meeting, accompanied her.

-Eh, Missus Happy, Misses Angry shouted, where are you?

-Who is there, in the Silent City?

If you remember, it was told in Sunday's cup that Missus Happy is a little deaf. So she had not noticed that the Silent City was not Silent any more ~~but it had become~~ <sup>and was becoming</sup> the Smiling City <sup>once again</sup>. She was so busy in her kitchen baking her pies that she had not seen the people coming back.

-Open up and see who is here, Missus Angry said.

Misses Happy open<sup>d</sup> her window a little ~~bit~~ <sup>bit</sup>. Her head with the funny little cap <sup>↓</sup> appeared.

-Don't you recognize me? I've <sup>come</sup> ~~come~~ for the recipe ~~of~~ <sup>for</sup> the honey pie that you sent me, Misses Angry said, bursting into laughter.

-Who are you? Misses Happy asked.

-God, you don't recognize me? Am I so old? I am your cousin, Missus Angry.

-Impossible! She never smiled in her whole life. There must be a mistake. Of course your face is hers, but, no, you are not Angry.

-Alright, let me prove it to <sup>you,</sup> you old witch, said Angry. You are the most ~~impotent~~ <sup>useless</sup> creature on earth. You are unable to do anything, you are a failure ~~in~~ <sup>at</sup> cooking, a failure ~~at~~ everything you touch. Your pies are disgusting and I am so glad I was away all those years, not to have to eat them and pretend I liked them.

-Oh, dear, this is indeed my cousin, said Happy <sup>chewed her arm</sup> and <sup>her arms</sup> I missed you so much, <sup>me</sup> let me embrace you. Only you can insult <sup>L</sup> so perfectly. Oh, I missed ~~your~~ your terrible quarrels. The place was dead without your shouting. Can you imagine me baking apple pies that nobody was there to eat? Baking honey pies with nobody ~~to be~~ there to enjoy <sup>then?</sup> And above all, can you imagine this place in total quiet? Come, come, dear cousin, let me offer you some apple pie, or maybe some lemon cake, or even better some raisin bread that is still hot from the oven. You can smell the cinnamon and the carnation flavour.

-You know I hate your lousy raisin bread and you still insist that I eat it.

-That's it, that's my cousin Angry! You still remember it, so you missed it, didn't you? Take a small ~~piece~~ <sup>piece</sup>, it is delicious.

"He who does not support his house ~~to~~ will have it fall over his head" (proverb) Missus Angry said.

-If you allow me, Kafedaki interfered, here you could better use another proverb. "If you are <sup>faced with</sup> ~~in front of~~ food take it and eat it. If you are <sup>faced with</sup> ~~in front of~~ a fight, better <sup>to</sup> leave" (proverb).

Missus Happy <sup>was so pleased to see her cousin that she hadn't</sup> ~~just~~ <sup>L</sup> noticed Kafedaki. She was pleasantly surprised. <sup>until then.</sup>

-My dear Kafedaki, you are the one who brought my cousin back. Thank you so much. Come, let me offer you some lemonade and some sweets.

Missus Happy was so happy ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> that her happiness filled up Saturday's cup and fell on <sup>Aw</sup> Auntie Melpo's veranda floor.

Now, you must be wondering what happened to the Beauty. Of course, she went to her home, too. She found her parents, her brothers and sisters, her uncles and aunts, her grandmothers and grandfathers, her cousins and friends. Right now she is <sup>looking</sup> ~~searching~~ <sup>for</sup> Kafedaki. She wants to introduce him to her ~~beloved~~ ones.

"If your luck holds, we'll meet again  
Remember what I say till then."

46

~~Not only the Beauty but the whole City~~ <sup>was looking for</sup> Kafedaki.  
~~All the people~~ <sup>They</sup> wanted to invite him to their homes, to offer him whatever they could, sweets, fruits, icecream. They ~~felt~~ <sup>were</sup> extremely ~~obliged~~ <sup>grateful</sup> ~~because~~ <sup>that</sup> he had saved them from the terrible underground prison.

-Come, Kafedaki, where are you? they were saying.

-Here I am, don't worry. Let me finish my pie first. Can anybody tell me where to find my friend the Gazelle from Sunday's cup? I remember very well what ~~he~~ <sup>she</sup> ~~had~~ promised me: "~~If you are lucky we shall meet again, if you are not lucky we shall not forget each other.~~" Where is the Gazelle? ~~Did~~ <sup>Has</sup> ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> forget me? ~~forgotten me?~~

Auntie Melpo looks very carefully in Saturday's cup but she cannot find the Gazelle. She finds a handsome young man instead.

-Don't you recognize me, Kafedaki? don't you remember my voice, my eyes?

-This voice... these eyes... you are the Gazelle. How did you turn into a handsome lad?

-Originally I was a lad, but ~~the witchcraft~~ <sup>a magic spell</sup> turned me into a Gazelle and asked me to find you in the cup and send you to help the Beauty out of the Silent City. You see, when the Giant enslaved our Smiling City I managed to escape but not absolutely. The ~~witchcraft~~ <sup>spell</sup> said:

The Giant will enslave us

Kafedaki will save us.

The messenger will be a Gazelle  
he must <sup>be brave and</sup> ~~act~~ <sup>act</sup> very well.

The Smiling City was gradually becoming the Smiling City again. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> young ~~men~~ <sup>men</sup> were singing as they ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~fixing~~ <sup>fixing</sup> the roofs of the houses. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> girls were singing as they ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> cleaning <sup>ed</sup> the rooms. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> grandfathers were singing as they ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> planting <sup>ed</sup> new trees or watering <sup>ed</sup> the old ones. ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> mothers and ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> fathers were singing as they ~~were~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~doing~~ <sup>went about</sup> their work. Missus Happy baked thousands of pies for the working people to eat. And Misses Angry-would you believe it? ~~no~~ <sup>no</sup> helped <sup>ed</sup> her cousin, ~~After that she was going around~~ delivering pies and proverbs.

- "Bean after bean, eventually you fill up the tin" (proverb). Don't spend your money like that, son, buying useless things. By saving it you can make more and more.

or

- "The good wife is at the same time a housewife and a lady." (proverb) Come on, girl, work. Don't just sit in front of the mirror.

<sup>or</sup> "He who laughs last, laughs loudest"

- "The last who laughs, laughs best." (proverb). Do you hear me, young man? I may be old but I have a lot of experience.

or

- "Our daughter-in-law is baking and the chickens are enjoying it" (proverb). I am talking to you, girl, take care not to throw food down when you prepare dinner.

Missus Happy got tired of her very soon.

- Move over, cousin, I am fed up with your philosophical words.

- You know that without my proverbs I wouldn't <sup>have</sup> ~~be~~ been able to <sup>survive in</sup> ~~take~~ the prison <sup>for</sup> so long.

- O.K. we have heard about it a thousand times. Now it's over, we have peace now, come and give me a hand with the cooking. "You, dear judge, keep your laws first" (proverb). You are telling other people to work while you are doing nothing but talking.

- Dearest dearest cousin. You have just given me one of the best proverbs that I don't have in my collection. Let me give you a kiss for this.

As the people of the Smiling City were busy with their work a very excited young man came running ~~to~~ the square and shouted:

- People of the Smiling City, I have a very ~~very~~ important thing to announce you: The wire frontiers that the dictator put around our City do not exist any more. We are now able to move out to other places, other cities and other countries.

- Hurra, hurra, everybody shouted. Down with ~~the~~ walls, down with ~~the~~ frontiers. Long live Freedom.

Kafedaki <sup>2</sup> wanted to tell them that the so-called "frontiers" were nothing but seaweed but he did not want to spoil their happiness and their relief. He did not want to make them regret the fact that they were in <sup>Jail!</sup> ~~prison~~ for so many years for a stupid nothing.

Kafedaki and his friend Lefteris (the ex-Gazelle) walked towards the Beauty's house. On the way, Kafedaki was asking his friend all sorts of questions.

-My dear Gazelle, sorry, Leteri, where did you find the magic apples? If you show me the place I could pick ~~up~~ a few. You know, I could give them to Auntie Melpo so that she will be able to turn into a butterfly, or a spider or a cat and so on.

-I don't think Auntie Melpo needs my apples, said Leteri. Her pomegranates are of a better quality witchcraft. If you eat one every day you keep the doctor away.

At this point I could not resist ~~to ask~~ <sup>asking</sup> Auntie Melpo.

-Is it true, Auntie Melpo that your pomegranates are magic?

But Auntie Melpo was very busy reading Saturday's cup.

-Shhh, she said. Don't interrupt me. I have to go on, now that I see...

-What, what? What do you see?

-I see weddings, don't you see? I see dancing and singing and feasts and music, violins and ~~guitars~~. Here is the bride, don't you recognize her? It's the Beauty. Look at her, she is wearing a dress embroidered with pearls and diamonds. Her hair is covered with flowers and...

-Who is the bridegroom? I asked impatiently.

-Who else? Leteris, the ex-Gazelle.

-Oh... him?

I was disappointed. Auntie Melpo noticed it and she hurried to explain:

Leteris and the Beauty were neighbours and friends since they were little children. They always wanted to get married and they would have <sup>been</sup> had the Giant not invaded ~~into~~ their City and their lives. He wanted to get married to the Beauty himself and this is the main reason why he buried the whole City. But Leteris managed to free her and all the people, thanks to Kafedaki.

-Well, poor Kafedaki, he ~~made~~ <sup>did</sup> all the ~~effort~~ <sup>hard work</sup> and what is left for him now? The Beauty is getting married to somebody else and he remains alone in the cup.

-Wrong! said Auntie Melpo. Kafedaki is not alone at all. Look in here, what do you see?

-I think I see another lady but who that could be?

-That's right, you are getting better with the cup reading, you know? <sup>There</sup> ~~this~~ is indeed another lady, dressed as you see in pure gold. Look how she is glittering like a star. And the way she dances the waltz... She is approaching Kafedaki now.

-How are you, Kafedaki? she asks. Do you remember me?

That voice was very familiar. Kafedaki tried very hard to remember. Finally the young lady said:

If Kafedaki is in your cup  
don't be afraid, you will have luck.

-The Firefly from Sunday's cup, said Kafedaki. Oh, would you please dance a little bit for me, please?

-Yes of course, with pleasure, with pleasure, with pleasure-said the girl smiling. Kafedaki, I know you are a bit lonely. Can I keep you company? I will ~~enlighten your way~~ <sup>cheer you up</sup>. You know, I took a leave now from the Giant's Castle. The tourists don't like it any more. The Giant is no Giant, he actually is not even a dictator. The Silent City is very boring, there is no action at all. The tourists prefer the Smiling City. At least here we have some feasts, weddings etc.

-Now that you mention it, Kafedaki said, will you marry me?

Of course, she accepted. At their wedding, Missus Happy prepared all the sweets and Missus Angry put a proverb inside each sweet. Kafedaki and his wife danced all night. They danced all the dances, old fashion<sup>ed</sup> and modern. They danced so much that Kafedaki got dizzy and could not get out of Saturday's cup. And they lived happily ever after. Kafedaki and his wife and the Beauty and her husband. And, of course, the whole Smiling City.

As soon as Auntie Melpo said the last phrase she put into my hand one of those magic pomegranates of hers. As I was thanking her she whispered in my ear.

-If the children like my story of Kafedaki in the Seven Cups come back again. I'll tell you more.

Well, I ~~can't~~ <sup>will have to</sup> wait and see...

Confusing: The Silent City + The Smiling City are the same thing. If I've read it correctly, the Giant's Kingdom isn't the Silent City.

The bit about the Firefly and the tourists doesn't seem appropriate either. Why would tourists visit the Giant's Kingdom?

## AUNTIE MELPO AND HER CUPS

My neighbour, Auntie Melpo is 80 years old. She has snow white hair and small round glasses on the edge of her nose. Each time she looks in her cup of coffee her glasses fall down, almost to her mouth. Auntie Melpo loves coffee. The doctor, though, has strictly limited her coffee drinking to one cup every day. So Auntie Melpo invented several tricks in order to make the one and only cup of coffee seem like more than one.

### FIRST TRICK

Auntie Melpo uses seven different cups for serving her coffee in. She uses a different cup for each day of the week. So, she has Sunday's cup, Monday's cup, Tuesday's cup, Wednesday's, Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's cup. Sunday's cup has a beautiful decoration of pink roses. Monday's cup has yellow lillies, Tuesday's cup has blue violets etc.

All seven cups with their little plates are nicely arranged one next to the other in Auntie Melpo's showcase. Auntie Melpo has neither children nor grandchildren. She is all alone in the world. Her coffee cups are like her children and her grandchildren.

### SECOND TRICK

Auntie Melpo takes it very easy with the one and only cup of coffee that she is allowed to drink every day, so that it lasts almost for ever. Here is what she does:

Every morning, as soon as the big Town Clock strikes 10.00 Auntie Melpo starts to prepare her greek coffee. That is she pours water in her greek coffee pot and puts it on the fire. At 10.02 she adds one teaspoon of sugar in the warm water. At 10.03 she adds one teaspoon of coffee, stirs it up and brings it back to fire. The greek coffee starts to boil. Then Auntie Melpo serves the coffee in the cup of the day. If it is Friday she serves it in Friday's cup. If it is Saturday she serves it in Saturday's cup, etc. She then puts the cup in the little plate, puts both in a disk covered with a fresh linen and next to it she puts a glass of cold water. She then takes the whole lot at the table out in the veranda, under the pomegranate tree. She sits comfortably in her armchair, brings the coffee cup near her nose, smells deeply and says:

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by you, the children. So one day I dared ask her to give me one of her stories and let me put it into a book. Auntie Melpo's first reaction was "no". She said that her stories are different from proper stories, that her stories are a little crazy, a little confused, exactly like the dregs at the bottom of a cup of coffee.

After a lot of persuasion Auntie Melpo finally accepted. For your sake she made up Little Kafedaki's story. She named it "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups of Coffee". This actually is not just one story but seven stories one after the other, in seven different cups. It is like a serial, with the main characters, Kafedakis and his friends appearing in all seven cups. Now, you may ask, how can one manage to see the same characters in seven different cups? well, this I suppose depends on how good the coffee-cup-reader is. And Auntie Melpo is really the best.

Auntie Melpo gave me permission to use her story for this book under one condition: That I would not change a single word. I accepted, and so every morning at ten o'clock for seven days I would find myself drinking my cup of coffee under her pomegranate tree. At eleven o'clock sharp I put my empty cup on the table and switched on the tape recorder as Auntie Melpo was turning her cup upside down. As soon as the coffee dregs dried up she looked firmly in the cup and started to read. Auntie Melpo is absolutely certain that only her seven cups contain stories and fairy tales. Ordinary coffee cups, like mine for instance, contain nothing but unimportant designs, having nothing to do with fairy tales, stories or feats.

Fortunately I know how to read and write. So I managed to put "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups" into this book, otherwise I don't know how you would be able to read it. I can assure you that Kafedaki is extremely charming. As a matter of fact, he is a little funny-looking (I know this because Auntie Melpo showed him to me several times in her cups). He has a rather big head and his legs are not quite straight. But he is very bright otherwise he wouldn't have managed all those problems that one faces in a cup. (One must never forget that his incredible feats take place in seven cups).

Sometimes Auntie Melpo is so excited with Kafedaki's adventures that she fails to stay neutral. She gets involved, she changes the facts, she enters into the stories herself. Once I made the big mistake of asking her why on earth she does this. Her answer was quite angry, almost rude.

"Well", she said, "this is MY cup, this is MY coffee and this is MY story. I can do whatever I want with them without having to ask anybody's permission, can't I? You may take it or leave it!"

As you can imagine I shut my mouth and never interfered again. I didn't want my book to remain unfinished. I swear on Kafedaki's life that I am telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This book was written exactly the way Auntie Melpo

read it from the seven cups. Not a word more, not a word less. When the book was finished I looked through it for the last time and you know what? It didn't seem to me so crazy after all. And...it made me think.

This book is dedicated to you, dear friends, who, instead of seven cups have in your showcases seven books (and maybe even more).

## SUNDAY'S CUP

SUNDAY: 11.00

Auntie Melpo fixed her glasses, stared very carefully in Sunday's pink-roses-decorated-cup and started:

Little Kafedaki was born one Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. He opened his eyes and ...closed them again. He was terrified. A cat's head with a snake's body was leaning over him.

-Welcome, Kafedaki, to the dark brown world of the coffee cup, said the Cat and continued in a gentle voice, leaning even closer over him:

Here, take this chocolate, it's soft and creamy, eat it up.

Then the Cat with the snake's body held out a piece of chocolate as big as a brick. The chocolate looked delicious and Kafedaki was eager to take a good bite.

-Don't! For God's sake don't bite, Kafedaki. This second voice next to his ear gave Kafedaki such a shock that he dropped the chocolate. A young Gazelle with big sweet eyes and a charming face was now leaning over him.

He isn't a Cat, you have my word on that.  
He's a poisonous snake and the chocolate is fake.  
If you eat it you will soon be dead.  
Here, take this apple, eat that instead.

The Gazelle offered Kafedaki a big fresh apple. But the Cat persisted saying:

-Come, Kafedaki, why don't you choose?  
Apple or chocolate? You've nothing to lose.  
Tasty chocolate or ordinary apple?  
Which is it to be, Kafedaki dear  
Listen to me, you've nothing to fear.

Kafedaki was in an extremely difficult position. The dilemma was tremendous. The Gazelle's eyes were staring at him in such a sweet way while the Cat's eyes sparkled wickedly. But to tell you the truth, chocolate is Kafedaki's favourite. An apple is nothing more than...just an apple.

Kafedaki picked up the chocolate in one hand, the apple in the other. The Gazelle and the Cat waited. Finally Kafedaki threw away the chocolate and took a bite from the apple.

The next moment a pair of wings started to sprout from the Gazelle's back. The Gazelle said:

-Very well done, my new found friend  
you made the right choice in the end.  
The danger is not over though,  
Hurry, climb on my back and let us go.

Kafedaki did not have time to think. He climbed on the Gazelle's back and off they flew. The Gazelle repeated:

-That Cat, or should I say that evil snake  
who tricked you, with that chocolate, fake,  
He's really bad. He won't give up  
until he is chased from the cup.

In that same instant Kafedaki heard a horrible laugh just behind them. As he turned his head he was almost scared to death. The Cat/Snake had also grown wings and was flying right behind them. His mouth was open, ready to eat them both up. Kafedaki begged the Gazelle:

-Oh, please, dear Gazelle, fly faster, the Cat-Snake is  
just behind us, I can feel his breath, hot like fire at the back  
of my head. Please fly faster.

The Gazelle said:

-Bite the apple, Kafedaki dear.  
Bite it quickly and he'll disappear.

Kafedaki bit the apple. He bit so deep and in such a hurry that he almost suffocated. The cat with the snake's body disappeared in a passing cloud. The Gazelle flew on until they had almost been around the whole cup. Finally he stopped next to a Cypress tree and said:

Now I must leave you-it is a pity-  
but this is the edge of the Silent City.  
and I can go no further.

-What does all this mean, Kafedaki wondered, "the edge of the Silent City?" Please, don't go, don't leave me alone. You promised to be my friend. The Gazelle replied:

If your luck holds, we'll meet again.  
Remember what I say till then,  
Remember the magic apple, dear,  
I can't say more, but I'll be near.

With these words the Gazelle with the soft tender eyes flew off. Kafedaki suspected that the words were symbols of a great secret. Kafedaki swore to discover this secret. He also swore to keep the magic apple as a precious souvenir of his first and only friend in Sunday's cup. Then he started to walk. In the distance he could see the Silent City. It looked like a fairy City, misty and deserted. All around it there was a wire fence. Kafedaki's heart was beating like an alarm clock. He was all alone in a strange, unknown place. He realized then that loneliness is the most frightening thing of all. He walked towards the fence. When

he reached it he saw that they it was not a real wire fence after all. It was made of seaweed. When he saw this, he forgot his fear and started to laugh.

-When I meet the Gazelle again I'll tell him that he should have joined me in this peaceful walk, he said to himself.

But all of a sudden, as Kafedaki was walking along he heard several strange groans and sighs. He looked around. There was nobody there; neither people nor any other creature. The City was absolutely deserted. Kafedaki had the impression that the groans and sighs were coming from inside the earth. He lay down and put his ear to the ground. Yes, he was right. The strange noises were coming from underground.

-Who's there? Who is crying down there? Kafedaki asked. No answer. The groans grew louder.

-Who is groaning inside the earth? he asked again. And why? Nothing. The groans and sighs continued, becoming stronger and stronger.

-For the third and last time I am asking, who is crying and why?

Again he got no answer while the groans and the sighs became even louder. Then, as Kafedaki was lying flat on the ground, he saw a little snail, all naked, without its shell. The naked snail looked in Kafedaki's eyes and said with a very sad voice:

If you want to find the reason why,  
you needn't look up in the sky  
Look down beneath the ground.  
There the answer will be found.

-Oh, does everybody in this cup have to talk in this mysterious way? Kafedaki asked. What does it mean "I will find all I need in the earth?" Why don't you make yourself clear?

The snail moved his antennae in a sad way and said:

A quiet life I used to live  
Never causing pain or fear.  
Then strangers came and stole my shell  
leaving me with groans and tears.  
Why? why? why?

The snail moved slowly away leaving Kafedaki alone once more. The sad echo of the snail's voice repeated in Kafedaki's head and he wondered: Why? why? why?

Why anybody would steal the little snail's shell, leaving him naked, miserable and ridiculous? "Poor thing", Kafedaki thought, "he tries to stretch up his antennae but it is useless. He has lost all his dignity and pride. Not to mention the cold he must feel without any dress..."

Kafedaki was walking on deep in thoughts, when a little bird fell at his feet. The bird was trembling. It was very scared.

Do you hear the Earth's terrible cries?  
Please, Kafedaki, find the "Whys".

"Here we are again" Kafedaki said. "What does this mean?"

My voice is my most precious thing  
but I am not allowed to sing.  
Why? Why? Why?

A gun fired nearby, interrupting the bird and frightening it away. But even after it had flown away its voice echoed in Kafedaki's ears: Why? Why? Why?

Kafedaki kept walking and thinking until a few moments later a little boy appeared. He was very pale and very weak. His eyes were full of tears as he spoke:

My father was killed  
my mother was killed  
I have nobody to live with.  
Why? Why? Why?

Bombs and gun shots could be heard in the distance and echoed with the question: Why? Why? Why?  
Kafedaki wanted to comfort the sick child, but the child looked at him with sad eyes and then vanished.

The sighing and the groaning from inside the earth became stronger. Now among the sighs and the groans Kafedaki could hear very clearly the word "WHY?".

Kafedaki felt as if an invisible hand was leading him. He did not resist because he was curious to find out what was going on. The Silent City was absolutely deserted. Not a single soul was moving in the streets. The shops, the houses, the restaurants the schools and the clubs were all empty. It was as if the people had left all of a sudden, leaving their jobs unfinished. Total silence, not a single word, not a single note of music, not a single sound. Oh, nobody can imagine how dreadful a Silent City is. It looks like a school without children or like a theatre without an audience. It breaks your heart. Meanwhile, the voices from underground were becoming louder and louder, always asking the same question: "WHY?" "WHY?" "WHY?"

Kafedaki walked and walked for hours. He felt lonely and sad. He needed to hear a human voice. So he started to sing:

Tra la la tra la la  
tra la rila rila la.

A window from a half-ruined house opened a little as he passed. Kafedaki saw an old lady's head through the crack. She had snow white hair and a funny cook's cap.

-Who is there? Did I hear someone singing in the Silent City? the old lady asked.

-It's me, Kafedaki.

-Can't you speak louder? I can't hear a word. Who are you? Kafedaki realized that the old lady was a little deaf. So he shouted as loud as possible:

-My name is Kafedaki. You don't know me. Tell me, why is this City so silent? Where are the people?

-Shhhh... don't shout. Somebody might hear you. Well, now this is really the Silent City. Once upon a time it used to be the Smiling City. Everybody has left except for me. Even my cousin, Angry, has left too.

-Your cousin Angry?

Angry seemed a funny name to Kafedaki.

-What is your name, grandma?

-My name, well, my name ...mmm let me remember... It's been so long time since anybody called my name... Oh, yes, my name is Happy.

-Happy? To be honest, you don't look so happy to me.

-How can anybody be happy, dear boy, in this lonely place? You need to have friends, people to share your happiness with in order to be happy. You see, now that you are here I can become happy again...

-I am afraid I will not be here long, dear Misses Happy. You see, I must go and find the People of the Silent City. A strange voice inside me tells me that I must bring these people back to their homes and to their shops, so that the Silent City can become the Smiling City again.

-God bless you, child, I hope you come back soon. If you see my cousin, Angry, please tell her that I miss her, and that I look forward to fighting with her again. Life is tasteless without our fights.

-How would I recognise your cousin, Misses Happy?

-You can't miss her. The most unbearable creature on earth, that's my cousin Angry. You will recognize her alright. Look, take this honey pie with you. My cousin will calm down if you give it to her. She loves my honey pies though she never admits it. Farewell, Kafedaki.

Kafedaki left Misses Happy (who actually didn't seem so happy) and went on. He walked all day, till he reached the other end of the Silent City. His heart was heavy like steel. He sat on a stone and sighed deeply. He was also very hungry. In his left-hand pocket he felt Misses Happy's pie. In his right pocket he felt the Gazelle's apple.

-The pie seems delicious he thought. It smells of honey and cinnamon. Nobody will really notice if I eat a little piece. But on the other hand, this pie does not belong to me, I have no right to eat it. The apple is mine, the Gazelle gave it to me. I have every right to eat it.

So Kafedaki bit into the Gazelle's apple. As he was chewing, a big castle with towers and loopholes appeared in front of him.

-My friend the Gazelle is still taking care of me, Kafedaki thought. Then he shouted towards the Castle:

-Is there anybody here?

-Who are you, what do you want? Do you have permission to be here?

The voice came from a closed window at the roof of the tower. In that instant the window opened and a head appeared, a head as big as a barrel.

-No, I don't have permission. Where would I get it? There is practically nobody in this City.

-Well, well, look who's here. Mr Kafedaki in person. Wait and see what will happen to you, the big head said. The next moment a huge hand, as big as a column, came from the window, seized poor Kafedaki and pulled him into the tower.

-Welcome, Mr Kafedaki, I was waiting for you, the Giant said. Don't you recognize me?

Kafedaki looked at him. He was so big that he could hardly fit into the room, so he had to kneel on the floor. Kafedaki was absolutely sure that he had never seen that terrible giant before.

-You see, he apologized, I am brand new in this cup, so I don't know many people. I... don't think I've had the pleasure...

-Oh, yes you've had the pleasure... Listen to this and you will remember at once:

Come on Kafedaki, why don't you choose?  
Apple or chocolate? You've nothing to lose.

- You had the chance to choose, but you preferred the Gazelle's apple to my delicious chocolate.

Kafedaki was astonished:

-You mean to say that you are the cat who was a snake... I beg your pardon, the snake that was a cat... excuse me... Are you the one that offered me the chocolate? he asked in the most polite way.

-That's right, I am the one that you rejected. I am, as you see the Terrible Giant, and I had transformed myself into a snakecat to kill you.

-Why kill me? I never hurt you, Kafedaki complained.

-Of course you did. Everybody in this cup knows that you came in order to steal my throne, and to become the Great Master of the Cup. Whoever dares to stretch a hand over my throne dies at once.

And in saying this, the Terrible Giant raised his foot in order to step on Kafedaki.

-Stop, wait a minute, Kafedaki screamed. I don't want to steal your throne. All I want is to find the People of the Silent City.

Here we are, you see? You want to marry the Beauty and become the Master of the City. You will find nobody. I put them all in jail. Miss Beauty doesn't want to marry me because I am a little bit... giant. So what? It is much better to be giant than to be a tiny little thing like you.

Auntie Melpo was tired. She had been reading from Sunday's cup for a long time. She yawned, she leaned her head back on her armchair and...started to snore.

I turned off my tape recorder. I had taped Kafedaki's Sunday cup feat and I slipped away .

MONDAY'S CUP

MONDAY: 11.00

Auntie Melpo is not very friendly with the tape recorder. "I don't like these machines", she murmurs. "Anyhow, let's start."

When Kafedaki woke up he found himself in a dark room without doors or windows. When his eyes got used to darkness he realized that neither the Giant was there nor anybody else. Kafedaki felt the fear like a pain in his stomach. It was the fear that each one of us feels when alone in darkness. He moved around trying to find out where he was.

-I wish I had a match, he said. Or a candle, or a lamp. Something to light the place up.

-Would a Firefly do? a delicate voice next to his ear asked him. It was indeed a Firefly. The little insect was shining in the dark.

-Oh, could you please light this place up a little bit? Kafedaki asked.

-How wonderful, said the Firefly. At last, someone who knows how to use the word "please".

-What are you talking about? The word "please" is the most common in the whole world. And the easiest to spell, too.

-I can assure you that I only heard this word three times in my whole life, said the Firefly. You see, because of my small size people ask me for favours without saying "please". You can't imagine how annoying this is.

-Would you please, please light this place up for me? Kafedaki asked, using the word "please" twice, just to satisfy the Firefly.

-Of course, of course I will, the Firefly sang, and she started to dance, jumping up and down and left and right in front of Kafedaki's eyes. She was obviously very happy. Kafedaki felt dizzy as he watched the shiny little thing dancing like this.

-Please, not so fast, please, you are making me cross-eyed.

-Oh, excuse me, the Firefly said and she started to sing.

How brightful it is  
to have someone say "please"  
It makes me shine like a star.  
Let me show you where you are.

The Firefly showed him the way towards a staircase in a corner of the room. The staircase led downstairs and was obviously the only way out of the room. Kafedaki followed the Firefly downstairs. He counted more than a thousand stairs.

-This is a quite long staircase, Kafedaki thought. Mr Giant should use an elevator.

-Here we are, Mr Kafedaki, the Firefly said finally. Would you excuse me, I have to climb up now, I have other things to do.

-Thanks, thanks and once more thanks, Kafedaki said. He was sure that the Firefly was fond of "thanks" as well as "please".

-Your Majesty, if I have your permission I would like to take a nap. I need to get my strength back, so that I can play with you again. You see, sleeping and rest clear one's mind and give one the chance to play well.

The Giant became suspicious.

-He wants to sleep in order to win the next game, he thought. Well, what about poor me who never sleeps properly. When one of my eyes is closed to sleep the other one is open to watch my throne. Perhaps I should take a nap too, to regain my power. Why don't I ask him. He seems to know a lot of things this Kafedaki.

The Giant asked:

-Tell me, Kafedaki, what happens to those who never sleep? Do they become stupid?

-Well, your Majesty, wise people say that "sleeping is like food". Well, good night, your Majesty, I have to go to sleep. See you in the morning. And good luck for tomorrow's game.

After these words Kafedaki closed his eyes and started to snore. The chessmen (who as we know are real people) started to yawn one after the other.

-Good night, said the two Kings.

-Good night, said the two Queens.

-Good night said the pawns, the Bishops the Knights and the Castles.

In a few moments all were lying on the floor, snoring. The Giant tried to keep his eyes open but it was impossible. He intended to shout at them, to be angry, but he could not. He kept closing one of his eyes. At the end he could not help it anymore. He closed both his eyes. His snoring almost broke Wednesday's cup. Hrrrrr, Hrrrrr , Hrrrrr.

Goodness, I almost fell asleep myself over the tape recorder though it is only midday. Auntie Melpo's voice woke me up.

-How quiet everybody sleeps, she said.

I looked in Wednesday's cup. Indeed everybody was sleeping soundly. I collected my things. I really enjoy Kafedaki's adventures. See you tomorrow...

1

## AUNTIE MELPO AND HER CUPS

My neighbour Auntie Melpo is 80 years old. She has snow white hair and small round glasses on the edge of her nose. Every time she looks in her cup of coffee her glasses fall down, almost to her mouth. Antie Melpo loves coffee. The doctor, though, has limited her coffee drinking to just one cup a day. So Auntie Melpo has invented several tricks in order to make the one and only cup of coffee seem like more than one.

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Antie Melpo uses seven different coffee cups. She uses a different cup for each day of the week. So, she has Sunday's cup, Monday's cup, Tuesday's cup, Wednesday's, Thursday's, Friday's, and Saturday's cup. Sunday's cup has a beautiful decoration of pink roses. Monday's cup has yellow lillies, Tuesday's cup has blue violets etc and each of the others has its special flower patern.

All seven cups with their little saucers are nicely arranged one next to the other in Auntie Melpo's showcase. Auntie Melpo has neither children nor grandchildren. She is all alone in the world. Her coffee cups are her children and grandchildren.

### SECOND TRICK

Auntie Melpo takes it very easy with the one and only cup of coffee that she is allowed to drink every day, so that it lasts almost for ever. Here is what she does:

Every morning, as soon as the big Town Clock strikes 10.00, Auntie Melpo starts to prepare her Greek coffee. She pours water in her Greek coffee pot and puts it on the fire. At 10.02 she adds one teaspoon of sugar to the warm water. At 10.03 she adds one teaspoon of coffee, stirs it up and puts the pot back on the fire. The Greek coffee starts to boil. Then Auntie Melpo serves the coffee in the cup of the day. If it is Friday she serves it in Friday's cup. If it is Saturday she serves it in Saturday's cup, and so on. She then puts the cup on the little caucer, puts both on a tray covered with a fresh linen cloth and next to it she puts a glass of cold water. She then takes the whole lot at the table out in the veranda, under the pomegranate tree. She sits comfortably in her armchair, brings the coffee cup up near to her nose, breaths in deeply and says:

9

Fortunately I know how to read and write. So I managed to put "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups" into this book, otherwise I don't know how you would be able to read it. I can assure you that Kafedaki is extremely charming. As a matter of fact, he is a little funny-looking (I know this because Auntie Melpo showed him to me several times in her cups). He has a rather big head and his legs are not quite straight. But he is very bright otherwise he wouldn't have managed all those problems that one faces in a cup. (One must never forget that his incredible feats take place in seven cups).

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"Well", she said, "this is MY cup, this is MY coffee and this is MY story. I can do whatever I want with them without having to ask anybody's permission, can't I? You may take it or leave it"!

As you can imagine I shut my mouth and never interfered again. I didn't want my book to remain unfinished. I swear on Kafedaki's life that I am telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This book was written exactly the way Auntie Melpo read it from the seven cups. Not a word more, not a word less. When the book was finished I looked through it for the last time and you know what? It didn't seem to me so crazy after all. And...it made me think.

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3

-Oh...Life is beautiful. How lucky I am to be alive!

Then she looks around at her plant pots with the basil, the carnation plant, the peppermint. She caresses little Rosmarie, the ginger cat, who is lying at her feet, then she looks up at the sky and drinks the first drop of coffee. After that she gets up, walks around her living room for a while, tenderly touches the other little cups in the showcase, comes back to the veranda and drinks the second drop of coffee whispering:

-Life is indeed beautiful. It is good to be alive!

She observes her plant pots once more, waters one or two, takes away the dry leaves, and...drinks another drop of coffee...

At 11.00 sharp, Auntie Melpo's cup has no more coffee. But you must not think that this is the end of coffee time. Oh no, on the contrary. Coffee time is only just beginning. It is time now for...

#### TRICK NUMBER THREE

The moment the Town Clock strikes 11.00, Auntie Melpo turns her coffee cup upside down and leaves it there for a while. As everybody knows, with Greek coffee thick dregs sink down to the bottom of the cup. When the cup is upside down most of the dregs fall onto the caucer. A few though, remain at the bottom of the cup and some stick to the inside. Auntie Melpo puts the cup on a clean caucer. She secures her little glasses over her nose so that they don't slip and starts to read the coffee dregs, the same way as British people read the tea leaves. Believe me or not, all those dregs that have dried inside the cup are like wonderful, strange pictures, pictures that can be turned into wonderful and strange stories if someone knows how to read them. Well, Auntie Melpo is one of those lucky people who know very well how to read the pictures in a cup of coffee.

You see, Auntie Melpo never went to school. She does not know how to read or write. She cannot read a book of stories. If she knew how to read, I am sure that instead of seven cups she would have had seven books in her show case, maybe even more. Auntie Melpo adores reading. She adores stories and fairy tales. Whenever she remembers that both her parents died so early and left her all alone as a baby she cries. She says:

4

-What a pity that I was not able to go to school like the other kids. What a pity that I had to go to work to make my living when I was only a little child.

Well, since Auntie Melpo does not know how to read books she reads the coffee cup. If you could only imagine what wonderful stories she reads in the coffee cup! She can see everything in there: witches, dragons, princes and queens. Each cup is like Aladdin's magic lamp for her. I assure you, nobody on earth can read such beautiful fairy tales as Auntie Melpo reads in the coffee cups. Rosmarie, the ginger cat listens to a different fairy tale every single day, lying comfortably near Auntie Melpo's feet.

As I listened to Auntie Melpo's marvellous stories from my window next door, I was really sorry because she could not be heard by more, much more people. I was sorry that she could not be heard by you, the children. So one day I dared ask her to give me one of her stories and let me put it into a book. Auntie Melpo's first reaction was "no". She said that her stories are different from proper stories, that her stories are a little crazy, a little confused, exactly like the dregs at the bottom of a cup of coffee.

After a lot of persuasion Auntie Melpo finally accepted. For your sake she made up Little Kafedaki's story. She named it "Kafedaki's Feats in Seven Cups of Coffee". This actually is not just one story but seven stories one after the other, in seven different cups. It is like a serial, with the main characters, Kafedakis and his friends appearing in all seven cups. Now, you may ask, how can one manage to see the same characters in seven different cups? well, this I suppose depends on how good the coffee-cup-reader is. And Auntie Melpo is really the best.

Auntie Melpo gave me permission to use her story for this book under one condition: That I would not change a single word. I accepted, and so every morning at ten o'clock for seven days I would find myself drinking my cup of coffee under her pomegranate tree. At eleven o'clock sharp I put my empty cup on the table and switched on the tape recorder as Auntie Melpo was turning her cup upside down. As soon as the coffee dregs dried up she looked firmly in the cup and started to read. Auntie Melpo is absolutely certain that only her seven cups contain stories and fairy tales. Ordinary coffee cups, like mine for instance, contain nothing but unimportant designs, having nothing to do with fairy tales, stories or feats.

5

### SUNDAY'S CUP

SUNDAY: 11.00

Auntie Melpo fixed her glasses, stared very carefully in Sunday's pink-roses-decorated-cup and started:

Little Kafedaki was born one Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. He opened his eyes and ...closed them again. He was terrified. A cat's head with a snake's body was leaning over him.

-Welcome, Kafedaki, to the dark brown world of the coffee

cup,

said the Cat and continued in a gentle voice, leaning even closer over him:

Here, take this chocolate, it's soft and creamy, eat it up.

Then the Cat with the snake's body held out a piece of chocolate as big as a brick. The chocolate looked delicious and Kafedaki was eager to take a good bite.

-Don't! For God's sake don't bite, Kafedaki.

This second voice next to his ear gave Kafedaki such a shock that he dropped the chocolate. A young Gazelle with big sweet eyes and charming face was now leaning over him.

He isn't a Cat, you have my word on that.

He's a poisonous snake and the chocolate is fake.

If you eat it you will soon be dead.

Here, take this apple, eat that instead.

The Gazelle offered Kafedaki a big fresh apple. But the Cat persisted saying:

-Come, Kafedaki, why don't you choose?

Apple or chocolate? You've nothing to lose.

Tasty chocolate or ordinary apple?

Which is it to be, Kafedaki dear

Listen to me, you've nothing to fear.

Kafedaki was in an extremely difficult position. The dilemma

6

was tremendous. The Gazelle's eyes were staring at him in such a sweet way while the Cat's eyes sparkled wickedly. But to tell you the truth, chocolate is Kafedaki's favourite. An apple is nothing more than...just an apple. Kafedaki picked up the chocolate in one hand, the apple in the other. The Gazelle and the Cat waited. Finally Kafedaki threw away the chocolate and took a bite from the apple.

The next moment a pair of wings started to sprout from the Gazelle's back. The Gazelle said:

-Very well done, my new found friend  
you made the right choice in the end.  
The danger is not over though,  
Hurry, climb on my back and let us go.

Kafedaki did not have time to think. He climbed on the Gazelle's back and off they flew. The Gazelle repeated:

That Cat, or should I say that evil snake  
who tricked you, with that chocolate, fake,  
He's really bad. He won't give up  
until he is chased from the cup.

In that same instant Kafedaki heard a horrible laugh just behind them. As he turned his head he was almost scared to death. The Cat/ Snake had also grown wings and was flying right behind them. His mouth was open, ready to eat them both up. Kafedaki begged the Gazelle:

-Oh, please, dear Gazelle, fly faster, the Cat-Snake is just behind us, I can feel his breath, hot like fire at the back of my head. Please fly faster.

The Gazelle said:

-Bite the apple, Kafedaki dear.  
Bite it quickly and he'll disappear.

Kafedaki bit the apple. He bit so deep and in such a hurry that he almost suffocated. The cat with the snake's body disappeared in a passing cloud. The Gazelle flew on until they had almost been around the whole cup. Finally he stopped next to a Cypress tree and said:

Now I must leave you-it is a pity-  
but this is the edge of the Silent City.  
and I can go no further.

-What does all this mean, Kafedaki wondered, "the edge of the Silent City?" Please, don't go, don't leave me alone. You promised to be my friend. The Gazelle replied:

7

If your luck holds, we'll meet again.  
Remember what I say till then,  
Remember the magic apple, dear,  
I can't say more, but I'll be near.

With these words the Gazelle with the soft tender eyes flew off. Kafedaki suspected that the words were symbols of a great secret. Kafedaki swore to discover this secret. He also swore to keep the magic apple as a precious souvenir of his first and only friend in Sunday's cup. Then he started to walk. In the distance he could see the Silent City. It looked like a fairy City, misty and deserted. All around it there was a wire fence. Kafedaki's heart was beating like an alarm clock. He was all alone in a strange, unknown place. He realized then that loneliness is the most frightening thing of all. He walked towards the fence. When he reached it he saw that they it was not a real wire fence after all. It was made of seaweed. When he saw this, he forgot his fear and started to laugh.

-When I meet the Gazelle again I'll tell him that he should have joined me in this peaceful walk, he said to himself.

But all of a sudden, as Kafedaki was walking along he heard several strange groans and sighs. He looked around. There was nobody there; neither people nor any other creature. The City was absolutely deserted. Kafedaki had the impression that the groans and sighs were coming from inside the earth. He lay down and put his ear to the ground. Yes, he was right. The strange noises were coming from underground.

-Who's there? Who is crying down there? Kafedaki asked. No answer. The groanings now became stronger.

-Who is groaning inside the earth for God's sake? he asked again. Why?

Nothing. The groanings and the sighs continued, gradually becoming stronger and stronger.

-For the third and last time I am asking. Who is crying