

HERE AND THERE...

A story about
active citizenship and
inclusion



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I. The MIRROR

Once upon a time there was a beautiful girl fresh as crystal waters! Her skin was as white as snow and her hair was black like silk, like the color of the starless night! Her name was “Elpida”, “Hope for a better world!” These were her mother’s exact words when she chose her name from the first time she faced her bright eyes and her big smile.

However, Elpida’s smile had faded away and she seemed gloomy among her gloomy classmates, as if an invisible power had stolen every smile and all the positive mood from all the children around her school!

One day, when she did not have anything to do, she climbed the curved wooden stairs which led to the attic, ignoring her mother’s orders, “Never to enter this dark place!” Elpida was apparently not really familiar with following orders! From a young age she had learned that, in cases of emergency, **orders and rules could be broken for the sake of change...**

Her instinct guided her to the attic...

With her flashlight, she lit the dark room and was flabbergasted to see her grandma’s old, wooden trunk just in front of her! Filled with curiosity, she approached it, as if a big magnet was pulling her towards it, until she slowly opened it and faced its only tenant... **A mirror!**



I. The MIRROR



She held it near her heart and softly whispered,

“Mirror, mirror on the wall, tell me, please, how can our lost smiles be retrieved?”
And though she did not expect it, a light appeared on the top right side of the mirror, which meanwhile had begun to chant, *“For the smiles to be retrieved, all the hatred you must delete! Build bridges, waste no time ... Give hope ... Here and there!”*

In the blink of an eye, the light disappeared and the mirror became silent!



II. The WALL

“Here and there! Here and there ...” whispered Elpida in her bed, later at breakfast, in the car and while she was entering her school the following day. Her school, an ugly building, colorless, without any trees, without smiley faces... Far in the distance stood the huge wall that was built there after the war and prevented them from looking at the other side. Because at the other side... there were the others, “the enemies”, as grown-ups used to say!



She stood there facing the other side when she heard a voice coming from there.

“Hello! Do you want to be friends with us?”

Her eyes immediately lit up like fire...

II. The WALL



“Here and there” she thought. *“This is what the mirror had meant!”* And without wasting any time ...

“Yes!”, she replied placing her ear on the wall!

And there, she met smiley Murad, the brave Hussein, Pana, whose name means “Tree” in her mother tongue and who constantly comes up with ideas and Hayat which mean “Life!” in her language!

The next day ... she took with her to the big wall, which was transformed into a meeting point, Thodoris and Boris and **altogether- working like a team-** they came up with many **ideas** to retrieve their smiles!



III. The PLAN of ACTION

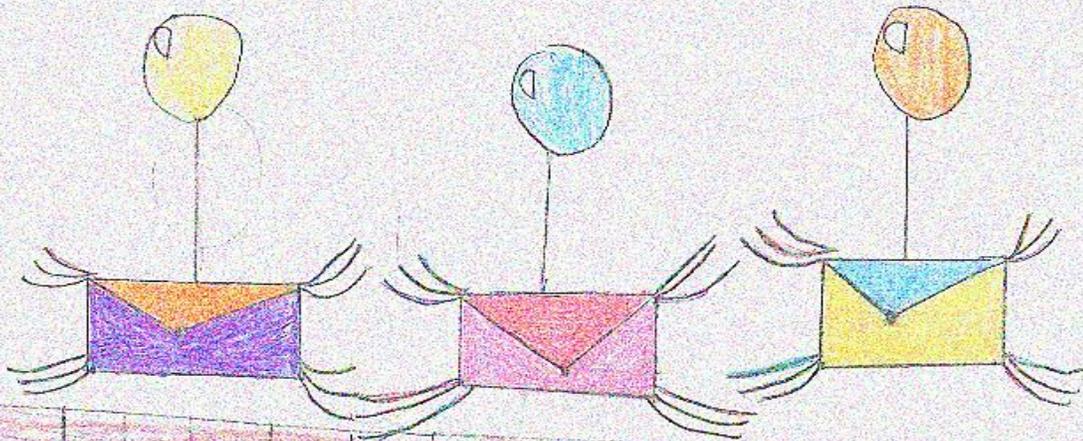


The following day they were all surprised when they saw the big piano near the cement wall. Little Anna was sitting and playing the amazing "Song of Joy" of Beethoven. All around, there were happy faces as if they were waiting for something ...

And suddenly... Melodious replies came from the other side, spreading the message of unity through music...here and there!

III. The PLAN of ACTION

The teachers approached to see what was happening and the children were behaving this way. There was nobody and nothing though to stop the children; they **continued** since the sound of music had captured them, and led them to an unprecedented gathering...



Despite the principal's immediate warnings, the following day was full of surprises! During the break, hundreds of balloons tied with letters and colorful ribbons rose up in the sky and crossed over the horrible cement border! Soon, all the children were holding a balloon and were making new friends!

III. The PLAN of ACTION

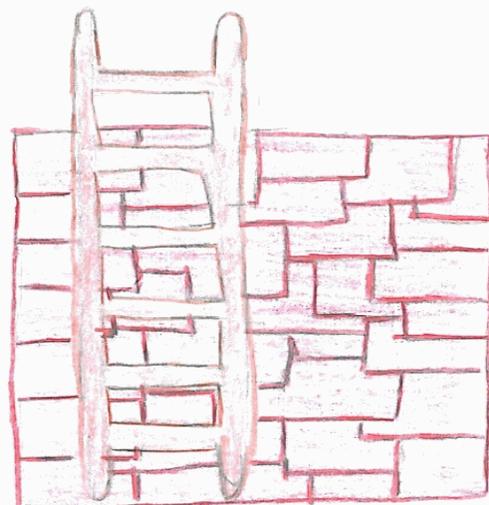


“Hi! I am Hippa. I have just arrived in Cyprus. I would love to get to know you and become friends! I do not like the wall at all!”

A small **revolution** was in the air! At the secret gathering that took place by the small hole they had made through the wall so as to **communicate** better, where **all spoke in turn**, they decided to decorate the wall instantly with messages of love and slogans of peace in all languages that were spoken in their schools!

III. The PLAN of ACTION

The teachers remained speechless before the colorful sight they came across with the following morning. Few of them smiled because they also wanted the two schools to reunite and both sides to come closer! However, the principal issued an ultimatum, *“Whoever dares to approach, write on, or cross the wall, will be dispelled!”*



In the afternoon meeting, Pana suggested, *“It is time to cross the wall!”* Thodoris waited all to share their opinions and then exclaimed,

*“We shall bring ladders from our houses! To climb high!
To lift our hearts higher! “*

On hearing such **revolutionary ideas**, some children **disagreed**, saying they were afraid of heights and the principal’s warnings, but when they **voted** later, the **majority agreed** with Thodoris and so, **the die was cast!**

III. The PLAN of ACTION



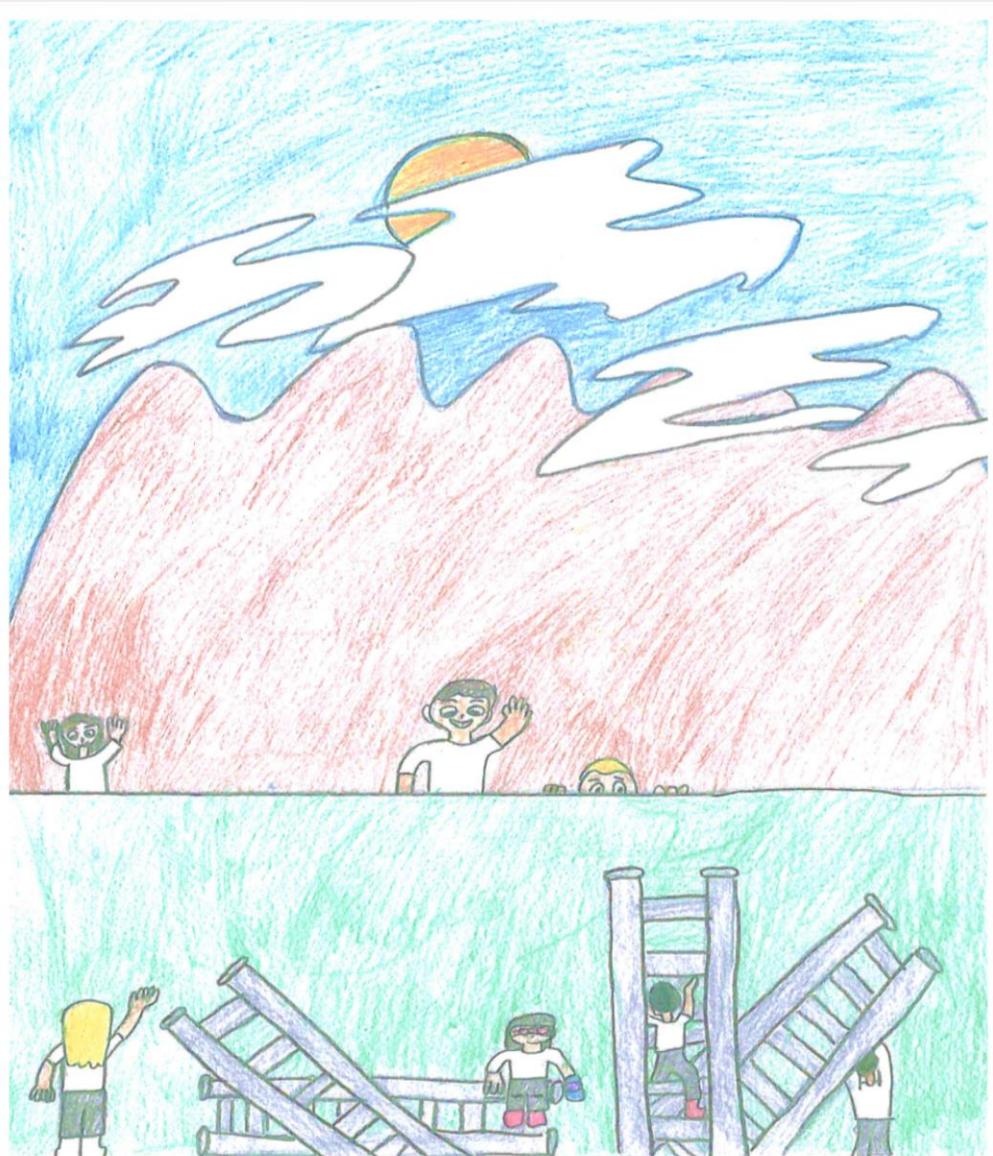
Erasmus+

Early in the morning the next day, the school was crammed with ladders... Here and There... And immediately many children, tall, short, overweight, slim, dark, white... **all children**, began to climb, some with the **help** of their parents or the help of other children who pushed to lift them high!

As soon as they climbed at the peak of the wall, they found there, their **friends** from the other side and everybody hugged, smiled and wepted from joy! For the first time, they could see beyond the wall! Some were even searching in the horizon to find their house, which they had never seen before!



III. The PLAN of ACTION



The principal could not say anything since a bunch of cameras and journalists appeared outside the school to cover “The Students’ Rise for Peace!” after the students had notified them! The students knew that **if they made their act known**, they would manage to affect the others and achieve their purpose!



IV. Join ME in this JOURNEY



That night Elpida went to the attic because she wanted to thank the hidden magic mirror for showing her the way back to finding the missing smiles!

Cautiously, she took the mirror in her hands, as if she was holding the whole world, and uttered words of appreciation! And the mirror smiled, giving light to its second part and said, *"It is time for a long, for a new trip, I am going to help elsewhere ... Join me in this journey, if you please!"*

And so the mirror and Elpida disappeared instantly...



V. Saulus



...switch to Part TWO