

Ayala Perez

# *The Temple Menorah Returns to Jerusalem*

מנורת המקדש חוזרת לירושלים

Illustration: Sapir Danan





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Written by Ayala Perez  
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## Steering Committee

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The book is a teaching aid for the lesson "Jerusalem Flower",  
which can be found on the Olam Shalem lessons website.

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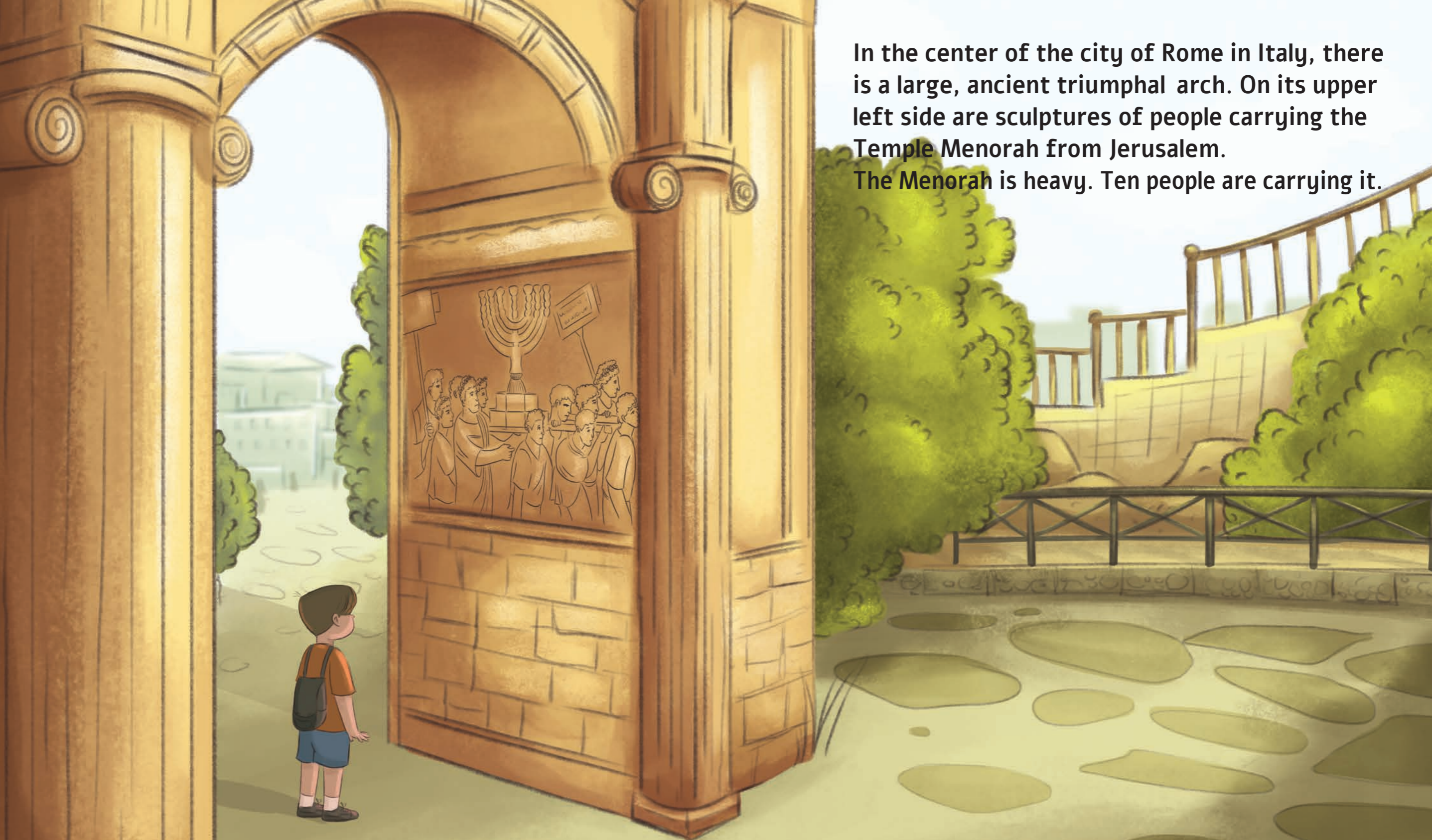
In blessed memory of

**Mrs. Mania Sarna**

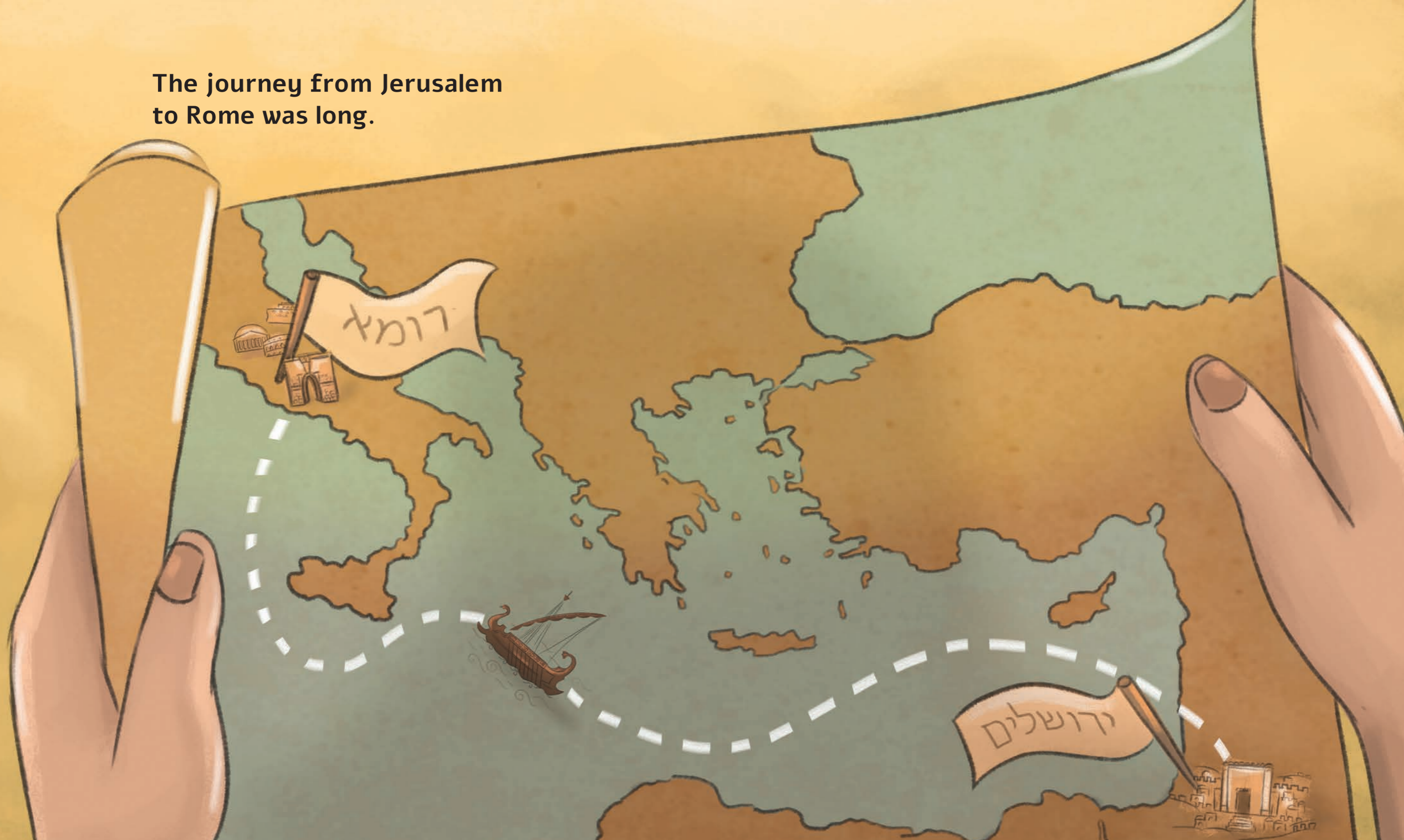
**מניה סרנה ז"ל**

Born in Poland, she and her husband, Joseph,  
both survived the horrors of the Holocaust  
and moved to America where they raised a  
well-established, glorious and Zionist family.

In the center of the city of Rome in Italy, there is a large, ancient triumphal arch. On its upper left side are sculptures of people carrying the Temple Menorah from Jerusalem. The Menorah is heavy. Ten people are carrying it.

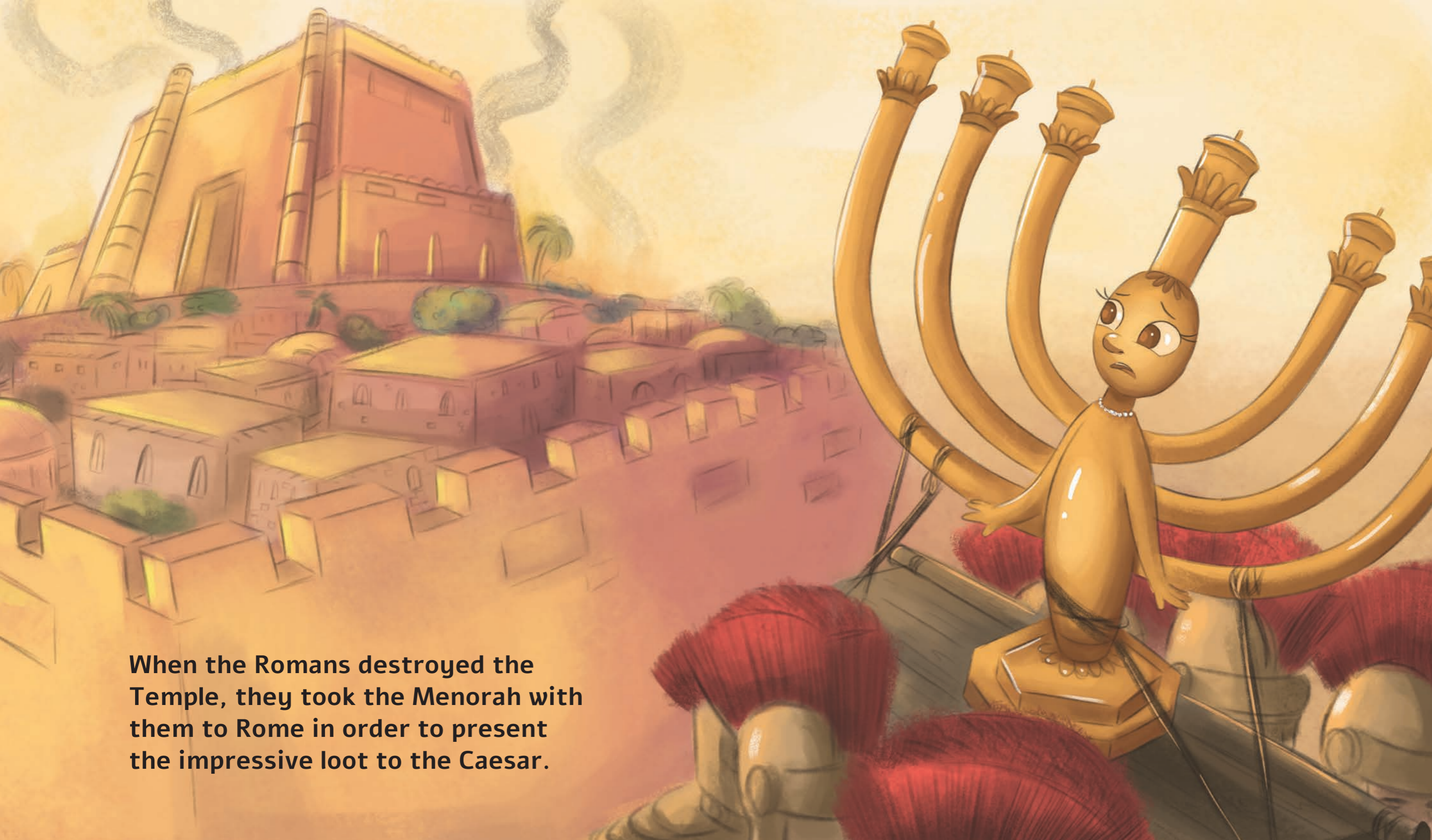


The journey from Jerusalem  
to Rome was long.





While the Temple stood in Jerusalem, the Menorah was in the center of the Temple. It lit up the city of Jerusalem from Shabbat to Shabbat.




**When the Romans destroyed the Temple, they took the Menorah with them to Rome in order to present the impressive loot to the Caesar.**

The Menorah was sad and wanted to return home, to the Temple. She didn't want to leave neither Jerusalem nor the Jewish people. It didn't interest her that Rome was more beautiful and rich than Jerusalem; she just wanted to return home.



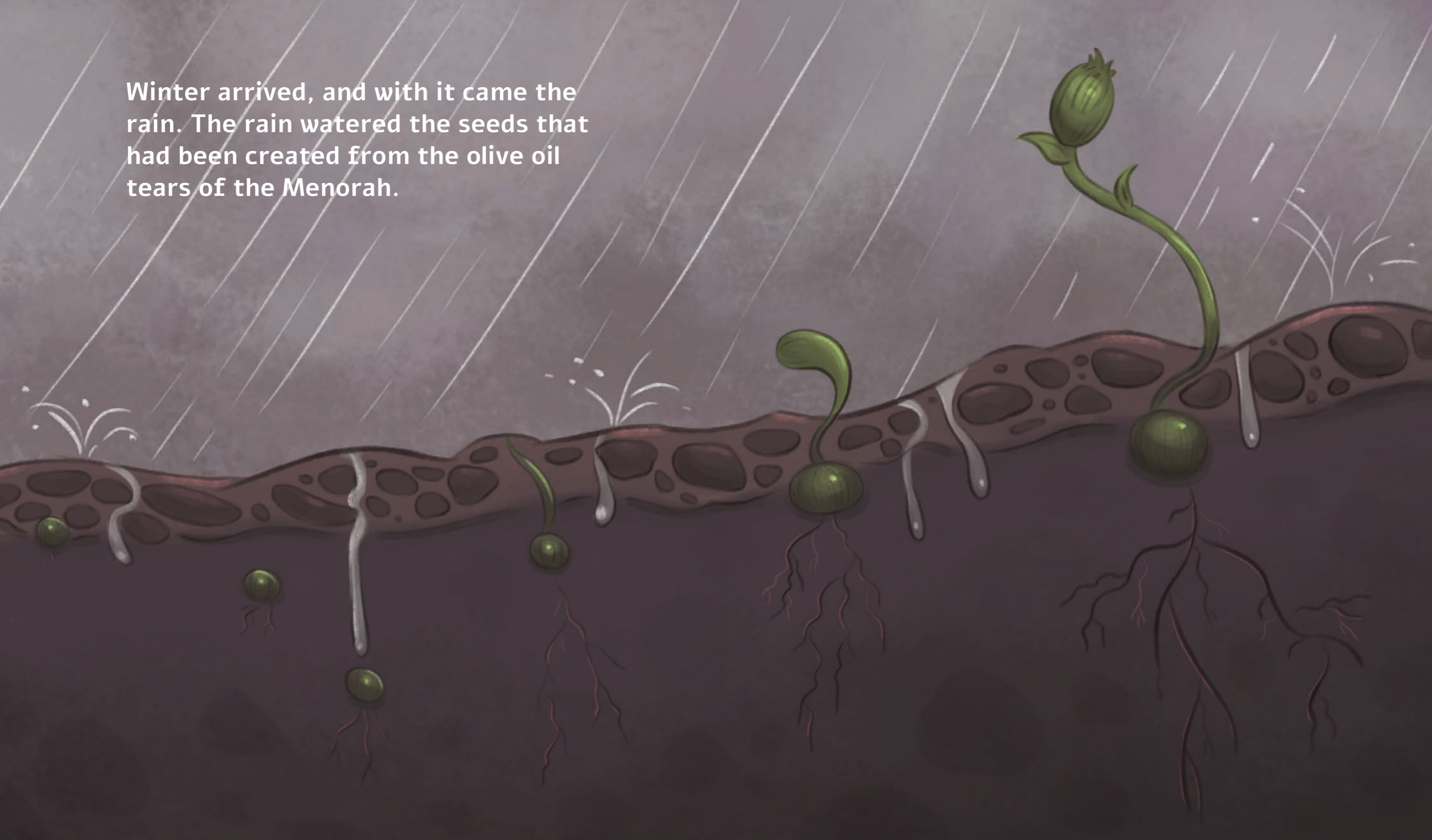
When the Romans marched downwards from Jerusalem she started to cry, and her olive oil tears fell to the ground and were absorbed into the earth. Every tear created a small seed.






The summer passed and autumn arrived, the Jewish people were saddened by the destruction of Jerusalem and yearned for the light of the Menorah that had left them forever. How will we remember the Menorah?" they asked one another sadly.

Winter arrived, and with it came the rain. The rain watered the seeds that had been created from the olive oil tears of the Menorah.



Winter passed and spring arrived.  
A green stalk poked out through  
the earth with three stems on either  
side. A purple flower adorned the end  
of each stem.



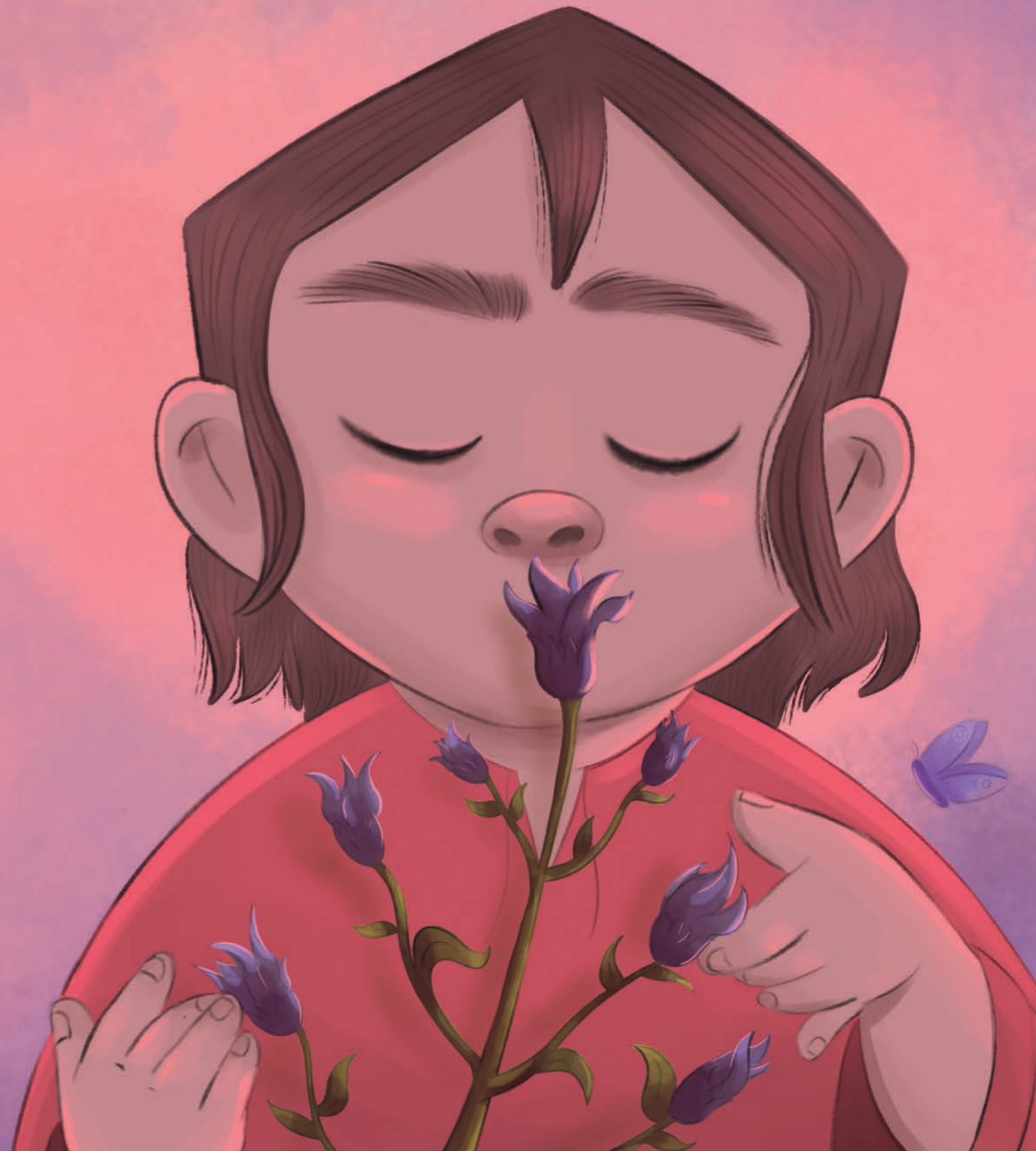


In a small farm in the hills of Jerusalem, in the heart of a forest of pines, lived David with his family. David and his parents would ascend to the Temple in Jerusalem on every festival and David was lucky enough to see the Menorah from afar. When David found out that the Menorah had been taken from Jerusalem by the Romans, he let out a painful cry.

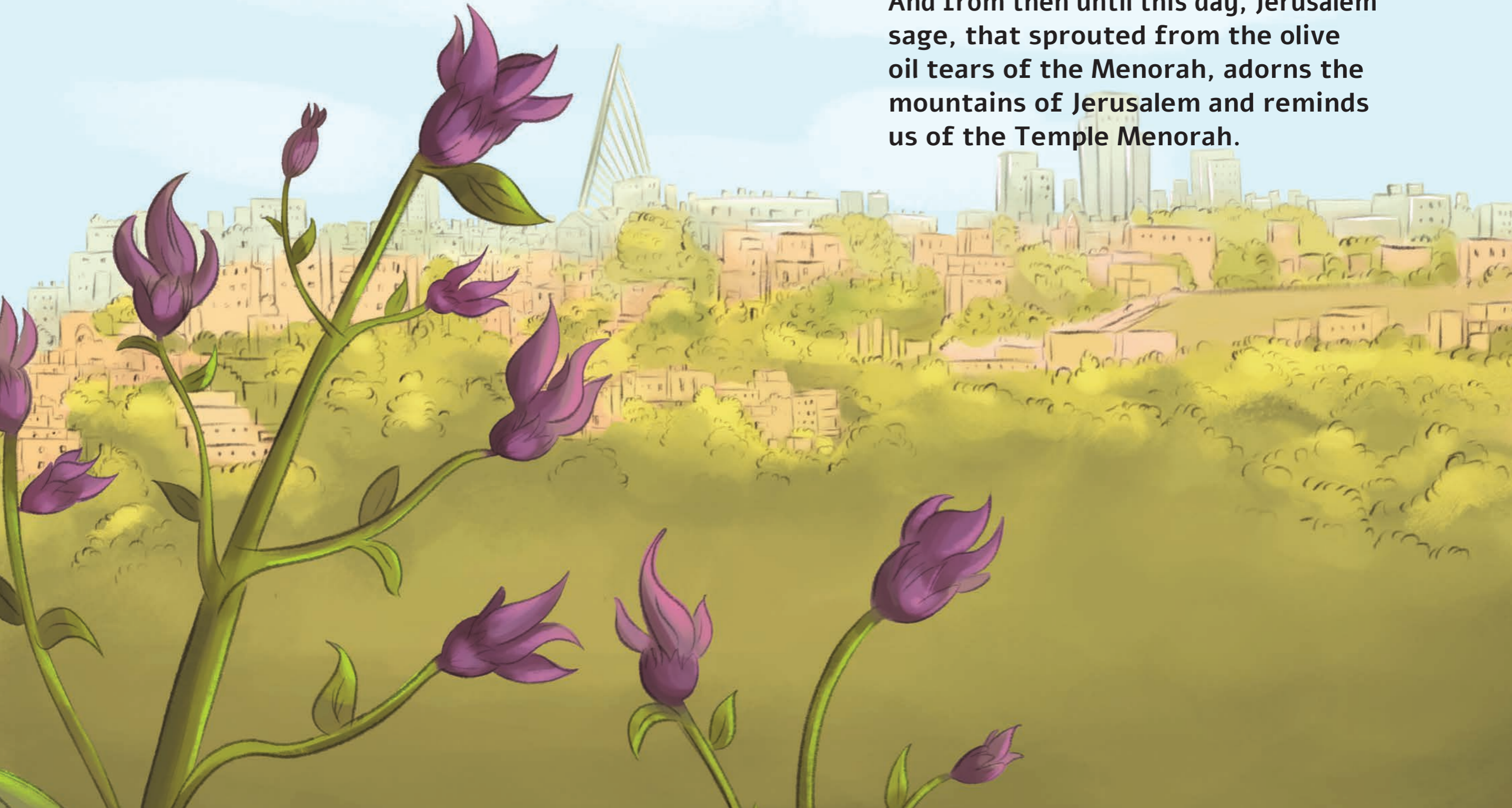


One spring morning,  
David took a walk with  
his mother in the nearby  
forest, close to the path  
leading to Jerusalem.  
Suddenly, he saw a plant  
with purple flowers,  
a plant that he had never  
seen before.

He drew close to the plant, looked at it, touched and smelled it. It reminded him of something. He thought and thought and was reminded of the Temple Menorah. The flowers and seven stems looked like the seven arms of the Temple Menorah that were decorated with flowers. He turned around and called, "Mother, mother, the Temple Menorah has returned to Jerusalem!"



**And from then until this day, Jerusalem sage, that sprouted from the olive oil tears of the Menorah, adorns the mountains of Jerusalem and reminds us of the Temple Menorah.**



## Jerusalem Sage

Jerusalem sage is similar in shape to the Menora that stood in the Temple. Its name in Hebrew is also reminiscent of the Temple – Marva = Moriya. The Jerusalem sage belongs to the Lamiaceae family of plants, because of its special method of pollination. The flower is pollinated by bees, which reach the nectar that is produced and accumulated at the base of the flower. The stamen sticks to the bee and when it continues its flight, it sprinkles the stamen in nature, and the flower multiplies.

The Jerusalem sage is a perennial plant, reaching a height of 80 centimeters and 15–40 centimeters wide. The plant is green and its flowers are crimson/deep-red. It blooms from March to June and grows mostly in the Mediterranean hilltops. This type of sage is endemic to Israel and Syria.

In the winter, many collect the leaves (before the plant flowers) to make stuffed dishes from them.



Olam Shalem was established to connect Jewish children worldwide to Jerusalem

### How do we do this?

Jewish schools worldwide share a curriculum that includes a monthly interactive class on Jerusalem. The Olam Shalem website includes the lesson's details, an animated short film, print aids and an accompanying presentation, expanded material for the teacher, pictures, and additional links.

The program is adapted to different languages and is offered to schools and communities for free. The class activities include collaborations with museums and cultural institutions in Israel and Jerusalem.

You, the educators at Jewish schools and communities around the world, are partners to this connection. Teach the class, put up pictures, send us the papers, and respond in the Jerusalem teachers forum at Olam Shalem, thereby connecting everyone to Jerusalem.

[www.olamshalem.org](http://www.olamshalem.org)



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