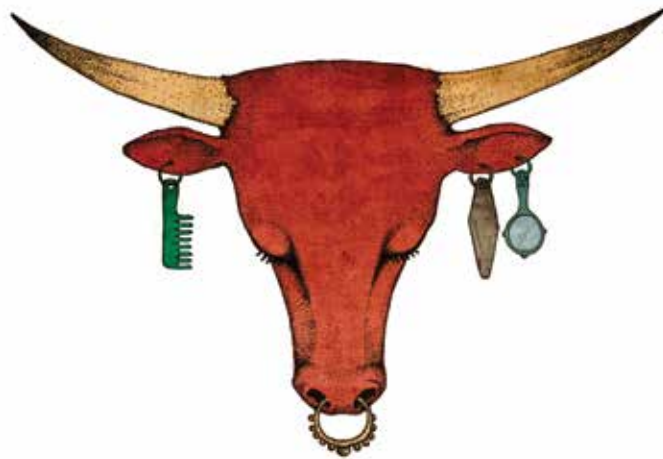




Tsikara ≈

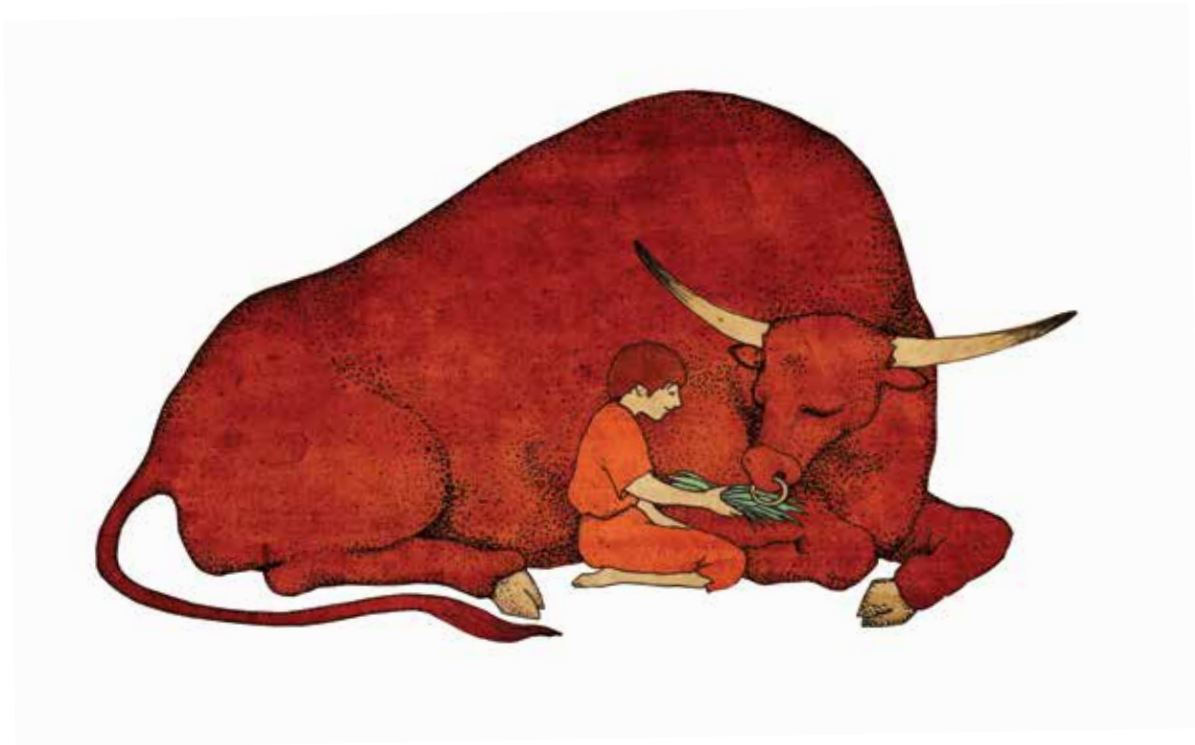
the crimson bull



Illustrated by
Tatia Nadareishvili
Eka Tabliashvili

Once upon a time there was a boy who lived with his father and cruel stepmother after his mother died. The stepmother didn't love the boy, treated him badly and thought of how to get rid of him.





The boy had a crimson bull called Tsikara that was his only friend, so he loved him very much.

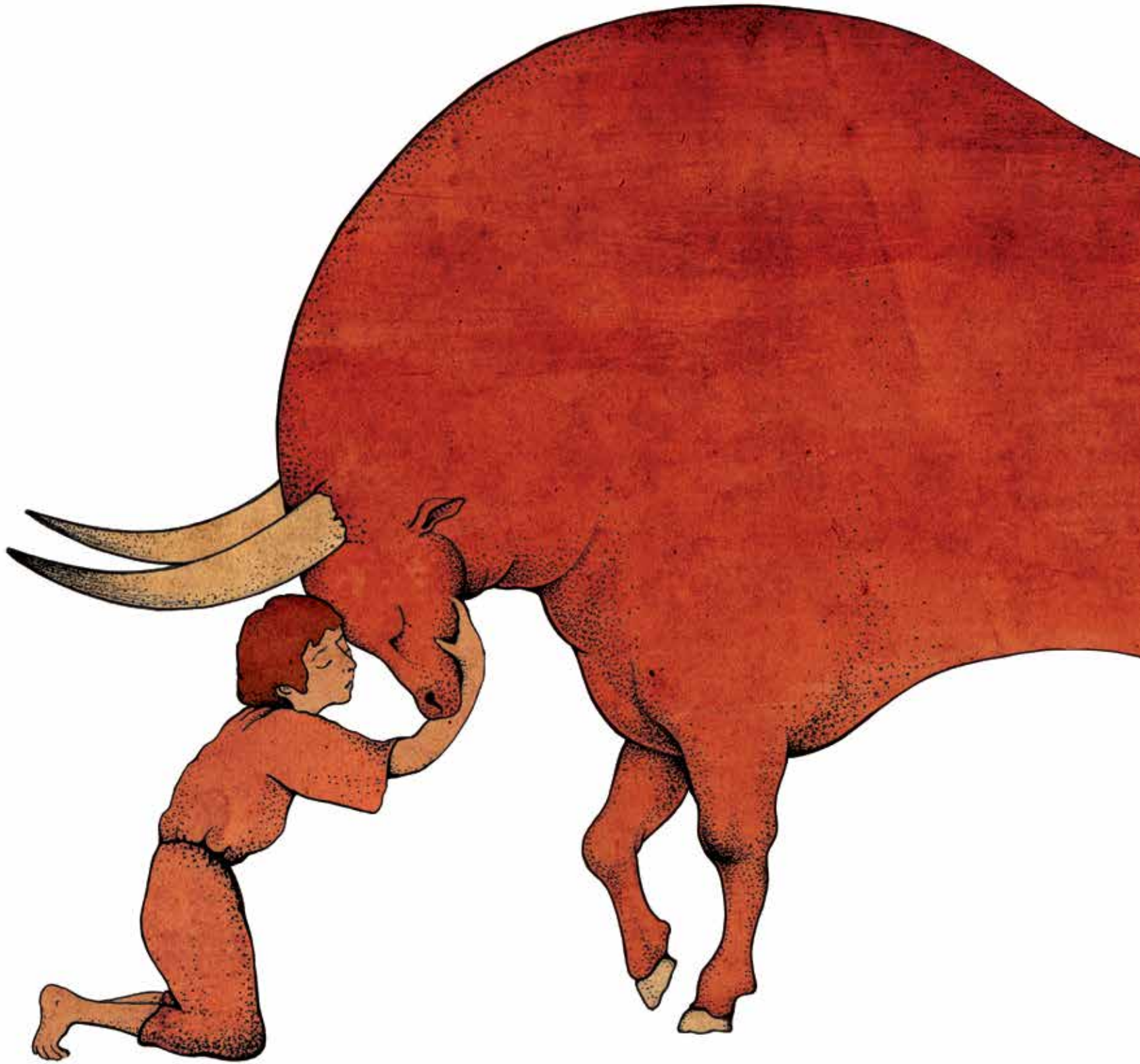
The stepmother thought that if she convinced her husband to slaughter the bull, the boy would die of grief and she could get rid of both. She pretended to be ill and told her husband nothing would help her except Tsikara's heart and liver.

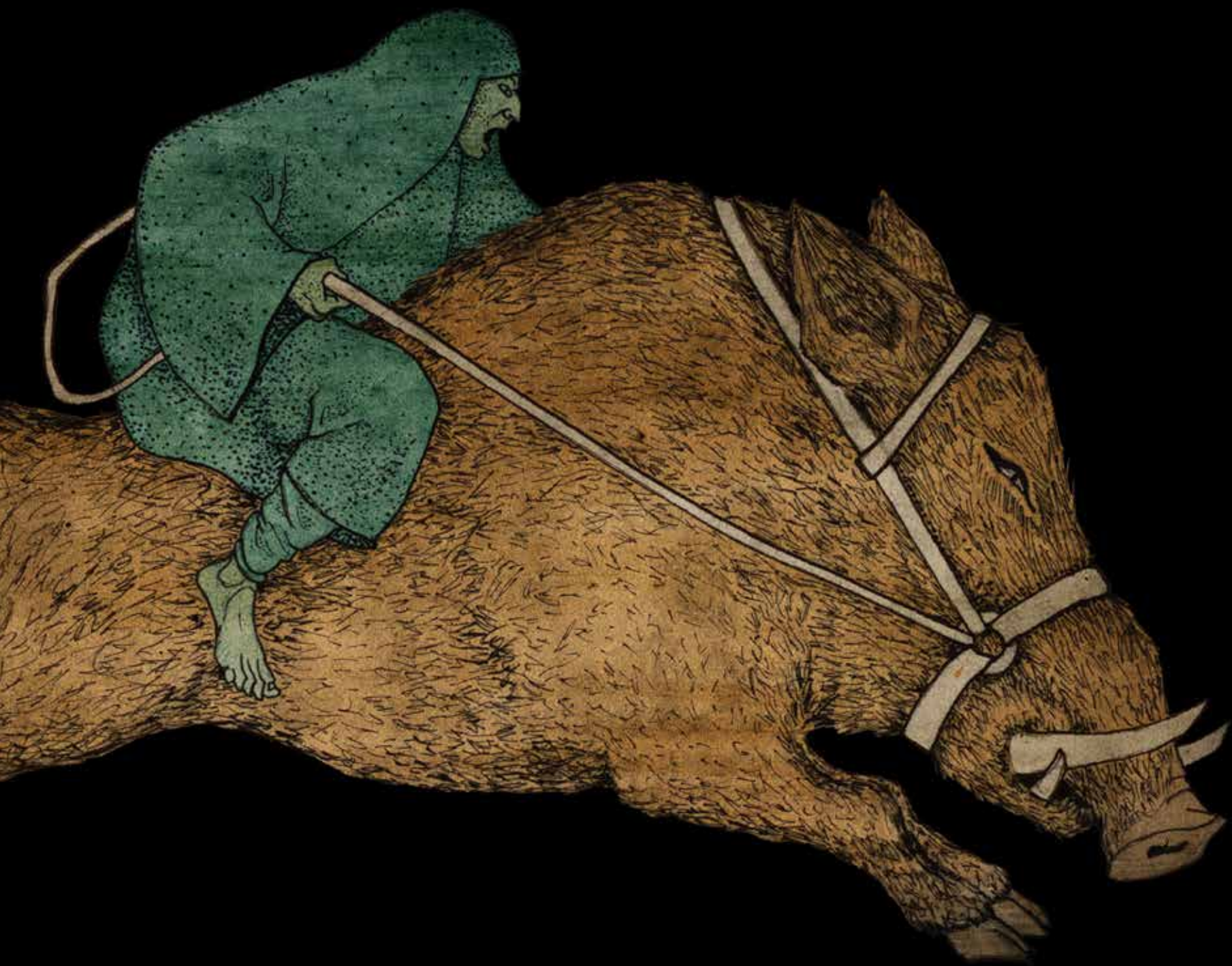




When he heard his beloved bull would be killed, the boy was devastated, but Tsikara found a way out. He told the boy to take a mirror, a comb and a honing stone from home and suggested they ran away.

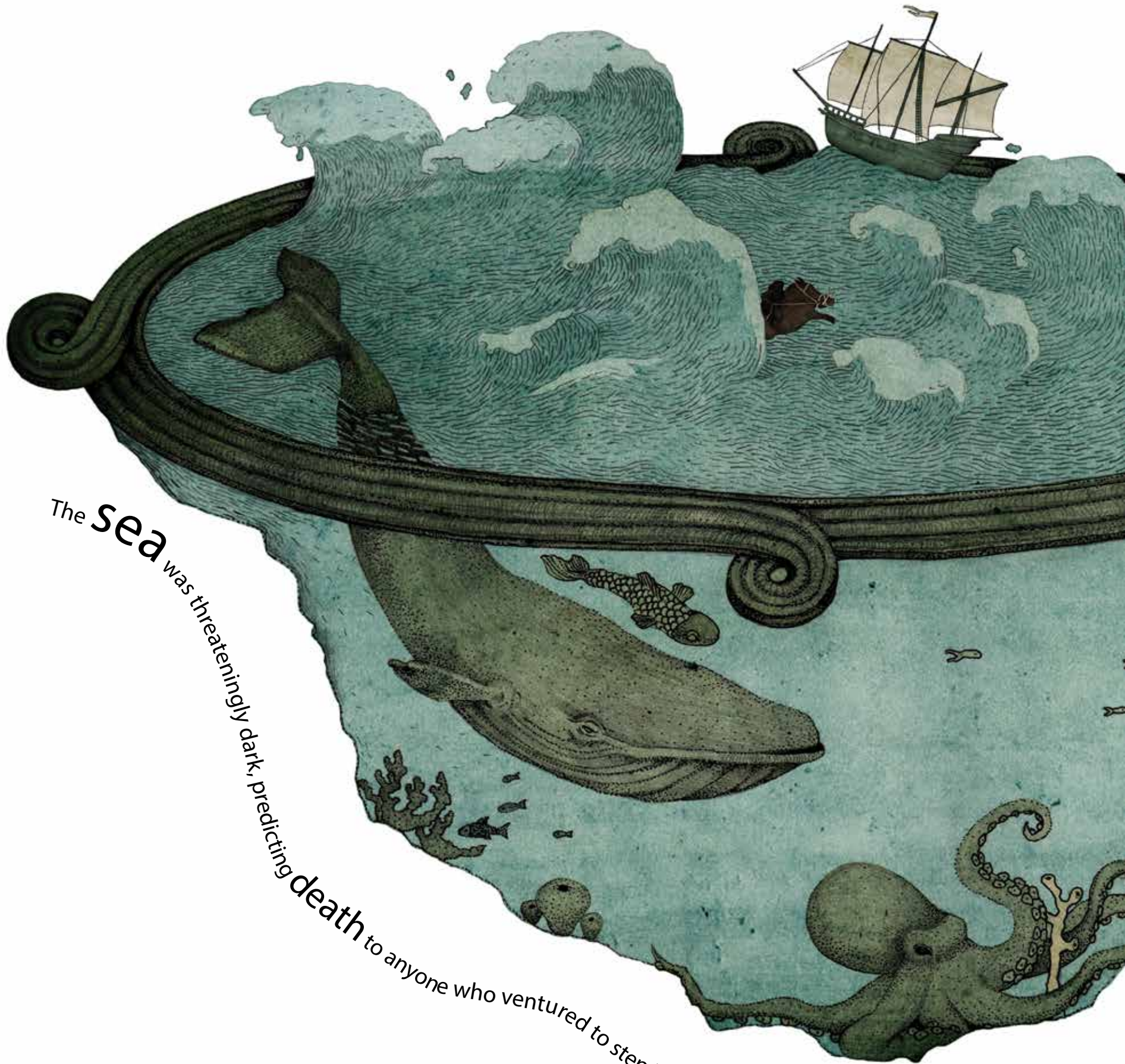








So the boy and Tsikara ran away. The enraged stepmother mounted her loyal boar and chased them.



The **sea** was threateningly dark, predicting **death** to anyone who ventured to step in.