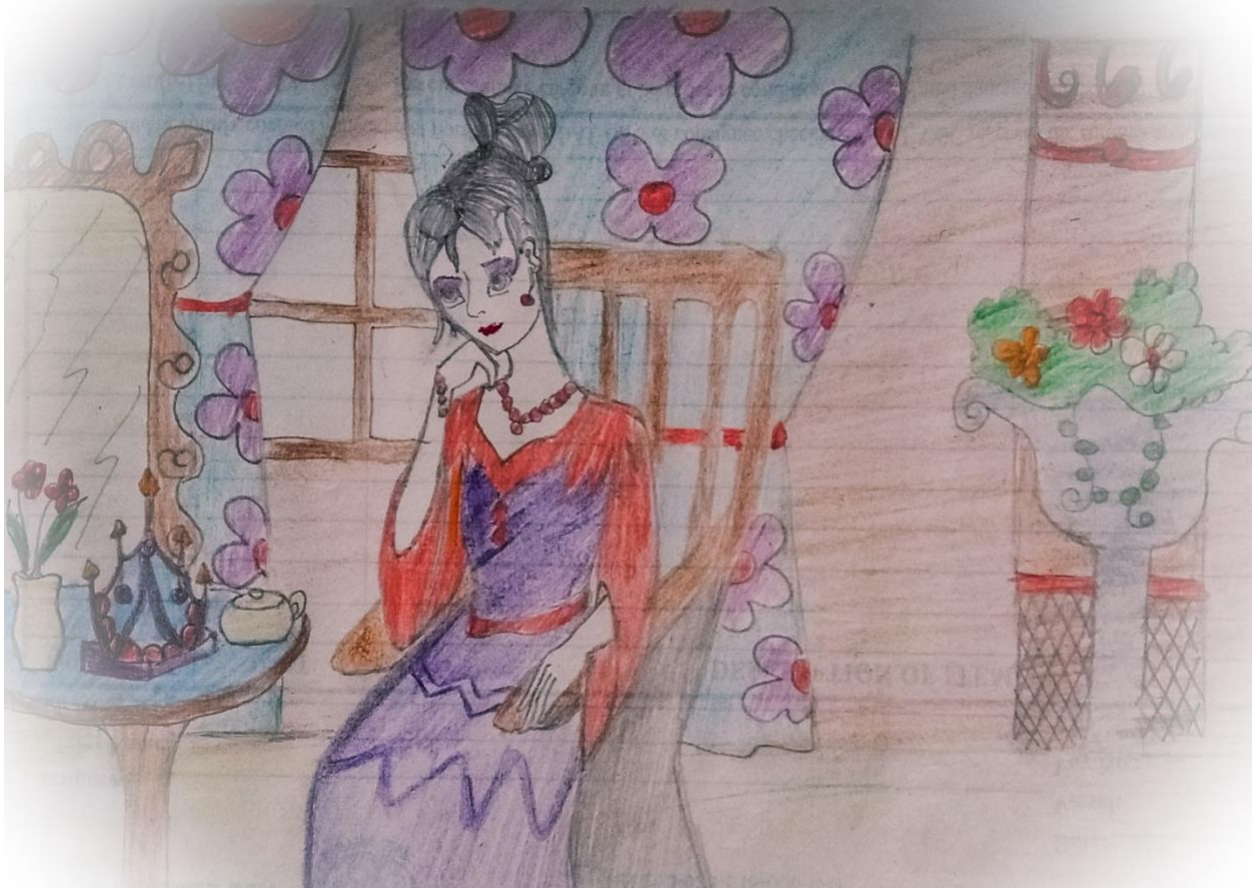


ALTHEA AND THE KINGDOM OF CALLIOPE

Long time ago in a far away land of verdant pastures and green fields lies the valley of Bamboa. The land is fertile and the people live in abundance of their natural resource, they live in harmony and peace and celebrate thanksgiving every four years during the first full moon of the fourth year. The peaceful land is ruled by a reputable maiden named Althea. She resembles a very beautiful face admired by the many and rules the entire land. Althea, a brave, good and fair ruler always looks what is best for her land and her people. The land of Bamboa was once a mess but when Althea came peace and harmony was achieved.



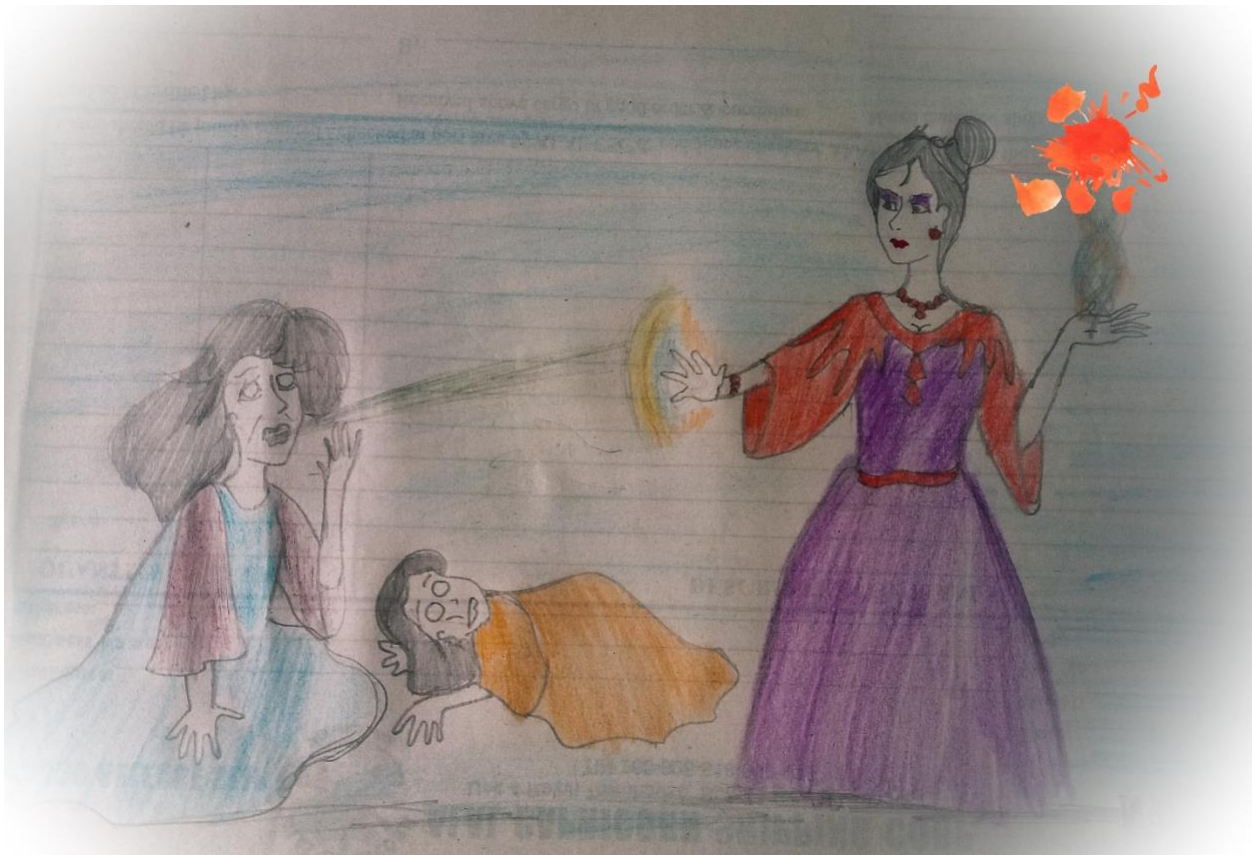
On a far distance from where the valley lies in peace stood a kingdom ruled by a powerful maiden witch named Calliope. She also possesses beauty many men admired but not as much as Althea's beauty does. Her kingdom is guarded by men and armies serving the hailed queen, but since her beauty is not so pure as it was characterized by incantations and magic she relies mostly of her powerful voice that could lure men and create destruction.



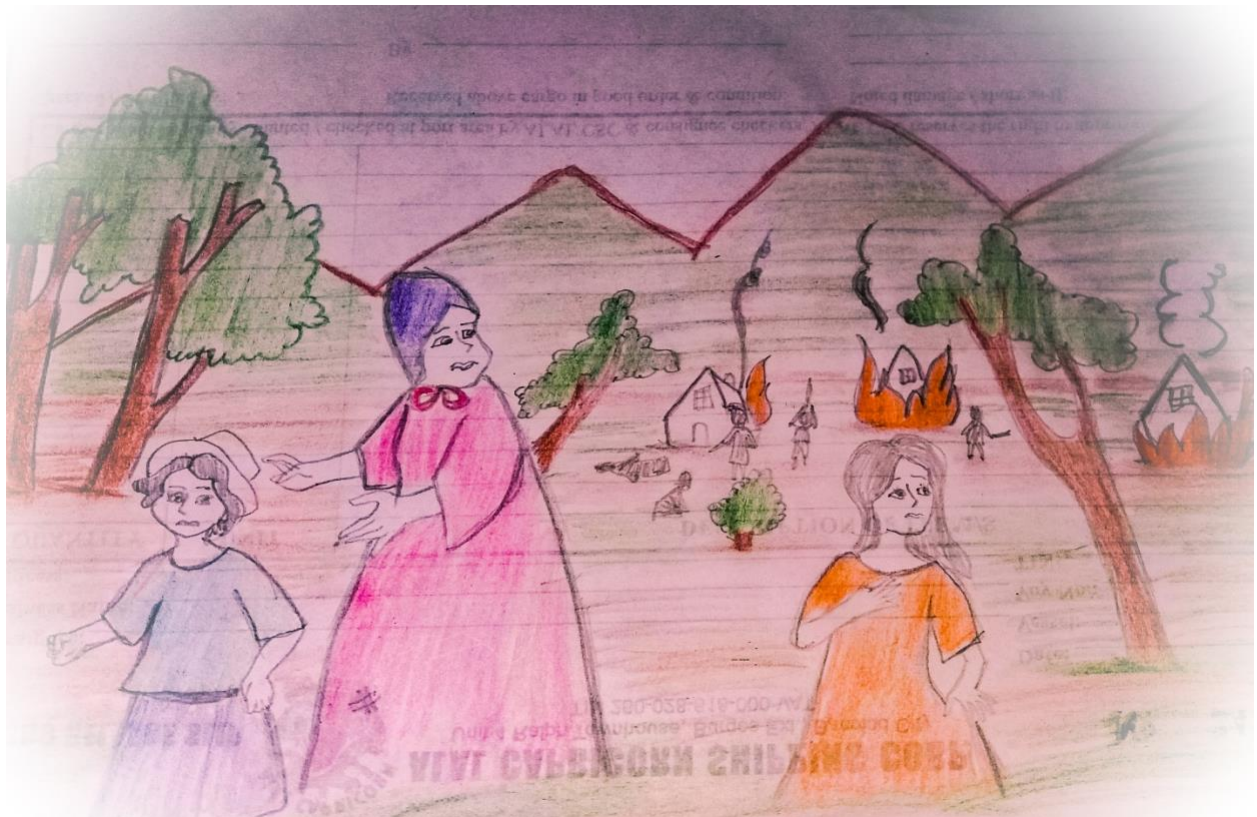
Althea is not just an ordinary maiden as she too possesses a powerful ability, she has the ability to cure and her incantations can oppose the evil queen. The people in the valley hold no power as powerful as the two but they can perform simple yet effective incantations.



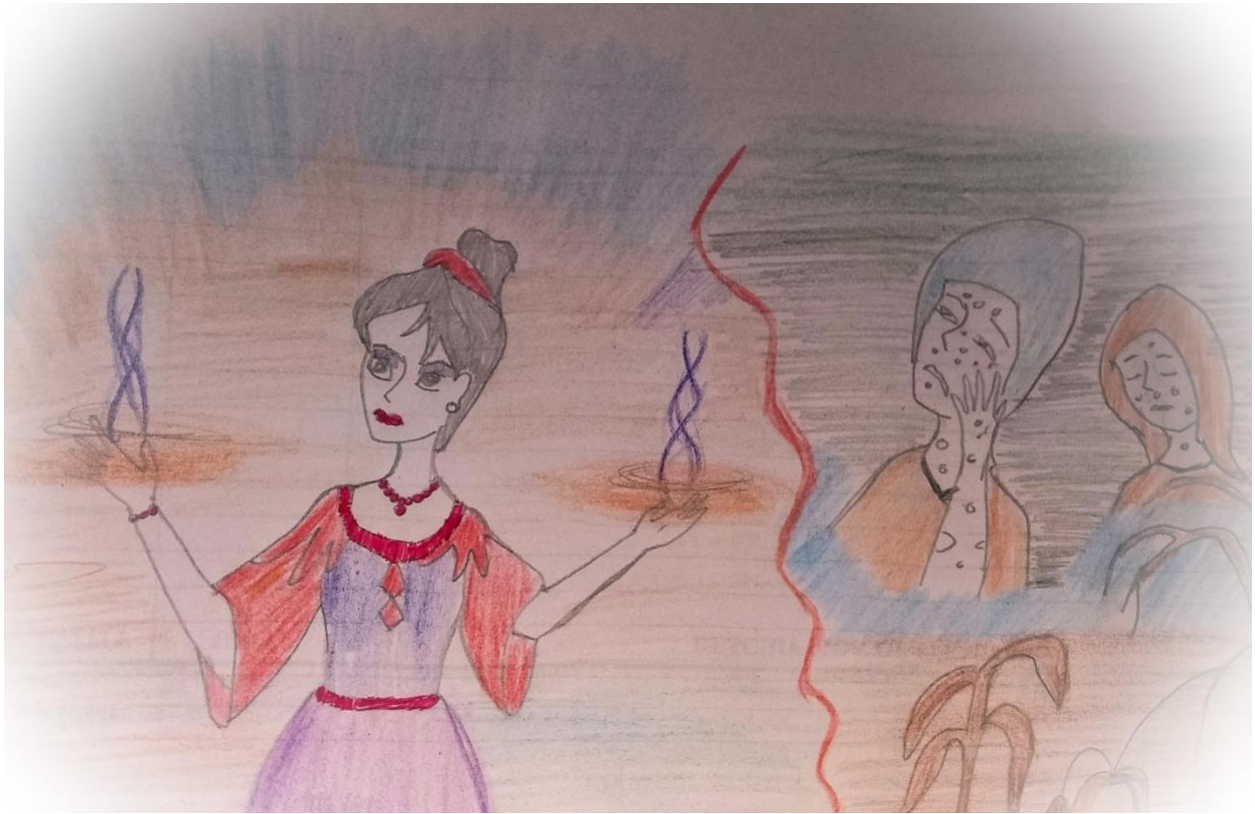
On the other side, Calliope is in extreme greed of power and attention, her people can do simple incantations before, until she ordered them to stop and instead rely on her power. She believed that one's little ability to magic and incantation can ruin her ruling and so she started capturing those who can perform simple tricks and cast them incantations so that their ability is moved to her possession making her slowly becoming more powerful.



One day, Calliope ordered her men to attack small villages and valleys to make her kingdom grow big and powerful. She shows no mercy as she had both young and old captured, allowed her men to ill those who will resist her and the news scares the neighboring valley and villages. There were few people who have escaped and went to the Valley of Bamboa to find refuge and they without any hesitations they were accepted and taken care of.



It came to the knowledge of the evil Calliope that some people escaped from the intrusion of her men and so she cast a powerful spell to destroy the remaining land surrounding her kingdom and cast diseases to the roaming people looking for refuge so that they can find nothing but death and would have no choice but to surrender to her.



Most of the entire land slowly becoming arid and most vegetation withered. It can be seen from the kingdom of Calliope but it didn't affect the land of Bamboa one thing that confused her. Meanwhile, as many people have somehow escaped from the attack of Calliope's armies most of them didn't escape the her wrath and suffered from the disease she cast. The people found refuge on the land of Bamboa and were healed each by Althea.



One fine morning, Althea was told by one of the valley men that the entire land surrounding the valley has completely turned barren. Althea was at first could hardly believe it and went to the top of the valley hill to see it herself. She saw a massive destruction made on the land and was told by one of the rescued men that it was cursed by an evil witch living on a far away kingdom and that most of the neighboring villagers have been captured and killed by the witch's armies. Without hesitations, Althea cites some incantations and lift her hands, there were lights coming from her and slowly the land recovers and turns green again.



She also made sure that none of the evil forces or possible incantations from the evil kingdom could penetrate and harm her land and her people. She made a powerful shield that protects her land and warned everyone not to go outside the borders. She also ordered her people to practice effectively the citations of incantations they knew to be useful to protect themselves in case of harm.





Calliope, the evil maiden witch has gone curious and seriously mad after she witnessed the next morning that the entire land except where her kingdom stood went green and verdant again. She knew it was something magical but she couldn't figure out where it's coming. One day she ordered her men again to head to the place where everything once remained green and full of life to know what is it behind her magic oppositions. Her men went on and found the valley of Bamboa where many people rejoice and live in harmony. The people saw the men coming and asked where they from and what they need but one of the men immediately lift his sword and got ready to attack but before they could have a chance they already found themselves floating on air as one of the people in the valley threw incantations to them. They were given chance to flee but before that one of them was asked what they were up to and then rushed to the kingdom fearing the valley. "Interesting" laughed the evil Calliope upon hearing his men's report about the said valley. She thought the people on that valley must be powerful too and planned how to get them so she could have their forces and powers moved to her. That day she told his men to prepare for the third day to attack the valley. The people on the valley were busy for the preparation for the upcoming thanks giving, the celebration will take place on the third day too marking the first full moon of the first month after four years of waiting for the said ceremony.

The day of the waited ceremony came and so did the enemies' attack. Everyone in the valley had no clue of the coming danger. Evening came and the full moon was bright, everyone in the valley were happily celebrating thanksgiving. Calliope and her armies came to the valley, all her men started to enter the valley but she couldn't get in. The magical spell of Althea protects the entire land from her and her magical intrusion. All her men already got in and began the attack but she was left outside thinking of how to break the spell but to no avail. Tired of trying to break the spell she began to use her magical voice and when she sang all surrounding plants turned brown and died and the magical shield Althea set has faded too.



Finally the evil Calliope broke the shield and followed her men to the valley, the people in the valley saw them coming and were terrified to see the number of armies. “Surrender to me all your powers and all of you shall live” she warned. Few moments later one of the people of the valley began chanting incantations to her, waters float and formed keen arrows pointing at her, all her men feared but not she. But as soon as the keen arrows reached them she immediately opposed them with her power and each arrow dropped down on ground and the people in the valley feared. “Witch” said the people.



Calliope then cast her power to the people of the valley and everyone was covered with fear but then came Althea opposing her magic. "Excellent" said Calliope. Then Althea told her people to defend themselves and save those who can not against the armies. She believes in her people's ability while she was left to fight against Calliope. "Who are you and why are you doing this to my people?" asked Althea. Calliope laughed at her after she heard her claims about her people and told about her plans. Althea swore to her that she wouldn't let anything bad happen to her people, then Calliope began to sing and her voice lured the people and slowly destroy the vegetation of the valley. "Stop" shouted Althea but Calliope continued.



Althea could not just watch her land suffer, so she cited some incantations and she touched the ground, immediately the land went fertile and the plants slowly rose and were about to attack back Calliope. Althea can summon the plants and even bind the water and air as well. Calliope got mad as her magical voice appears to be too weak for Althea's power.



“Who are you and how could you resist my voice” Calliope madly asked. “ I am Althea, the protector and owner of this land, now whatever you plan set them aside and go back to your kingdom” warned Althea, but she was ridiculed by Calliope. The people still were fighting with the armies and the two had serious fights against one another. While the destruction was going Althea's healing power slowly recovers the casualties and damage.

“You rule your kingdom so I rule mine” explained Althea, but Calliope was hard headed and instead keep casting powers towards her but she always avoided them. For another time, Calliope used her voice again and everyone was in trouble because the voice was too loud and destructive. Althea was distracted upon seeing her people and so Calliope found a perfect time to be able to hit her with a spell and magic that she failed to notice and fell on the ground.



Calliope approached her and began casting incantations to take Althea's power but the people from the valley unite and uttered incantations that put shield on Althea. She got so mad that she turned back to the people of the valley and her mighty powers pointing to them, but before her power hit the people Althea got up and covered the people with the use of plants. That very time, Althea's madness was ready to avenge, she lift her hands up to the full moon and cited incantations. "Mighty moon of all, hear me with my powers I summon you let your light shine upon us and dazzle our enemy" Althea cited and few moments came that the moon shined to its brightest and Calliope dazzled by its light.



“No” cried Calliope as she could no longer see through her eyes after the brightest moon and her face slowly turned aged and her powers unleashed from her. Her armies witness her defeat and surrendered to the people on the valley. After the moon light faded, Althea turned all white and her beauty shined. Everyone that was injured as well as the withered land and vegetation went back to life and were healed.



“Who you really are ?” asked the evil Calliope who was turned powerless and aged. “ I am Althea, twin goddess of the night moon, I came down here to protect this land, and as the moon shines so do I” Althea replied. All the people in the valley witnessed her great power, the evil witch was found to be no longer harmful to anyone and was treated fairly after all. The kingdom of Calliope went down as the people in it were saved by Althea and her people. And the land went lively and green again, and they all live happily ever after.