

Flying over the Venetian Walls of Heraklion

Niki Delikanaki & Antonia Koniou



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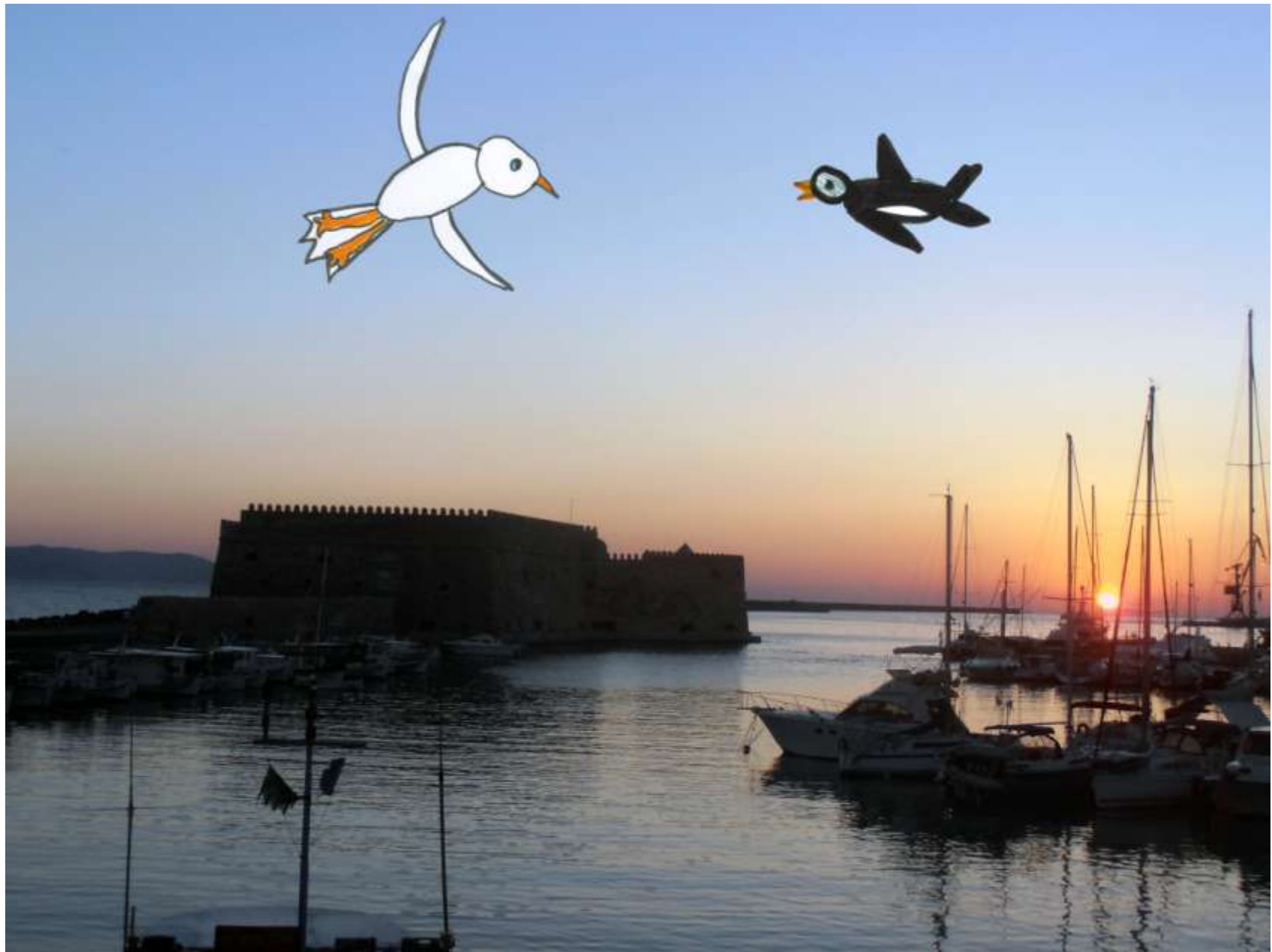
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The day was just breaking...The little swallow arrived in **Heraklion** city at dawn. It flew over the Venetian castle at the old harbor, the renowned **Koules**...



There it met the passing by sea gull and asked: -Should I build my nest up here, on the castle?
-You'd better ask the wise pigeon, said the sea gull and flew away in a hurry.



The little swallow then met the pigeon at a stone-made wall by the sea and asked it:

-Tell me, where is the best place to build my nest?

-You have to search for that. Look among the stone-built treasures of the city! Fly over the **Venetian Walls** with the **7 bastions**! Then you'll decide the place for your nest, replied the pigeon mysteriously.



The little swallow flew towards the sea, following the Venetian Wall from above.



It stopped prying at the **Gate of Dermata** as it noticed for the first time the 4 clever magpies: -I'm looking for the stone-built treasures. Do you know any? -A stone-made fountain is nearby; 4 columns are crowned by a triangular pediment! Cross the road and you will see it! Replied the first magpie.



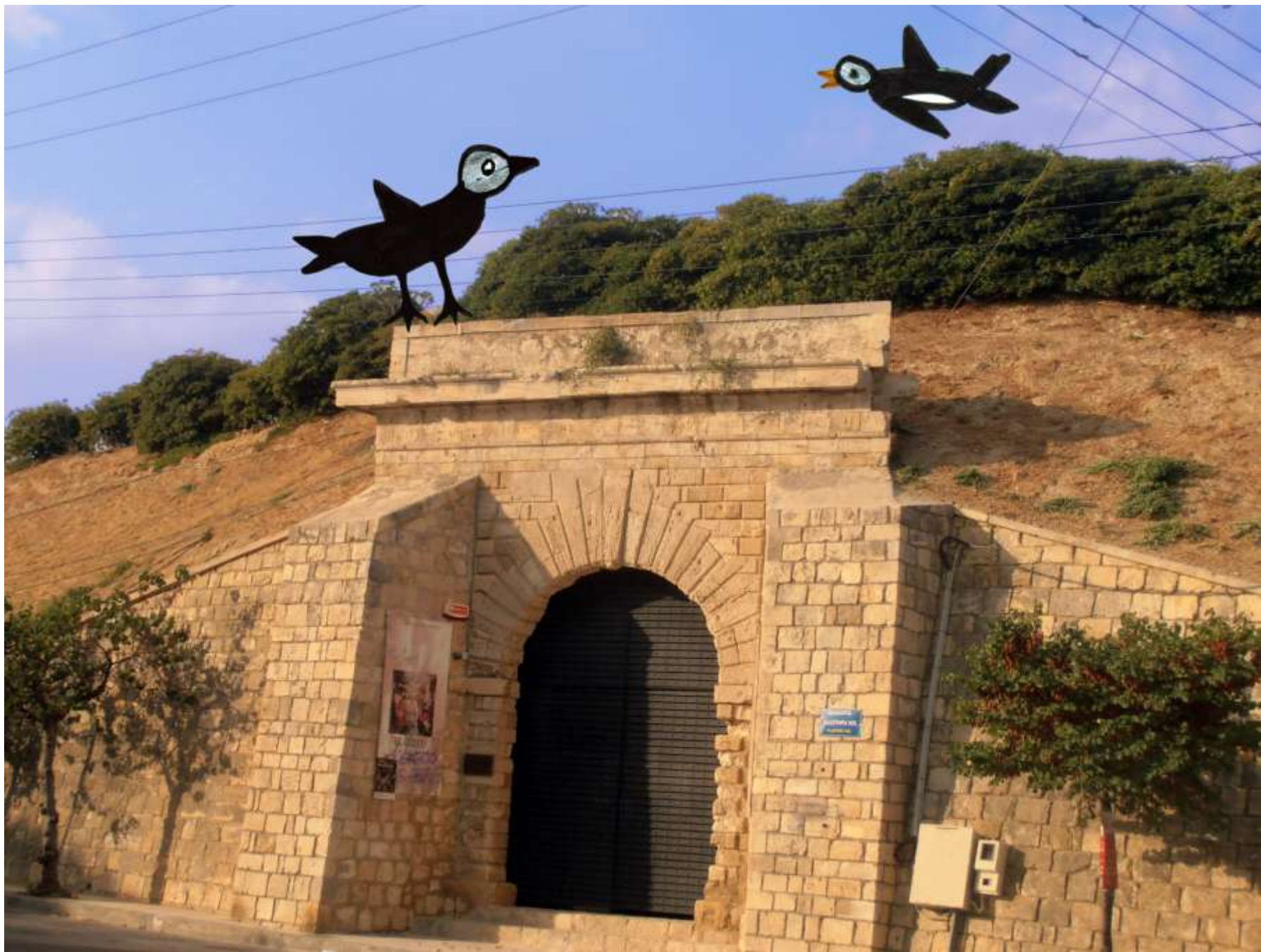
The little swallow flew and found the fountain. It was a masterpiece! It read the name on a plate; **“Priuli”**, the name of the Venetian General who had constructed it. Then it left heading for the Walls again.



Over the 1st bastion, the **Bastion of St Andreas**, it met the roving sea gulls... It threw a glance at the sea from above and then turned around following the Walls.



It arrived at the 2nd bastion, at the gorgeous **Gate of Pantokratoras**, where the stone winged lion stood! Up there it had a chat with the 3 talkative sparrows, about the Venetian conquerors and the sufferings of the brave Cretan people. Then once more it flew away...



At the **Bethlehem Gate**, the little swallow greeted the black raven, flying over the 3d bastion.



It passed by the Komeno Bedeni, chasing playfully the shadows' lines...



It arrived at the highest point, the **Martinego's Bastion**. From up there it was able to view the whole city and the triangular form of the Walls! How much it learnt about it from a flock of swallows!



At the **Gate of Jesus**, in front of the 5th bastion, it met the 4 clever magpies for the 2nd time. The 2nd magpie said: -So, you have made it up to here? Well done little swallow! Follow the street, a fountain with a headless statue you are about to see! – Thanks! Said the little swallow and left full of curiosity.



-It is called **Bembo Fountain**, the name of the Venetian General who had constructed it and brought the statue; mumbled through its whiskers the black-and-white cat that lived nearby. The little swallow flew around, admired the superb decorations, learnt the history, and got excited!



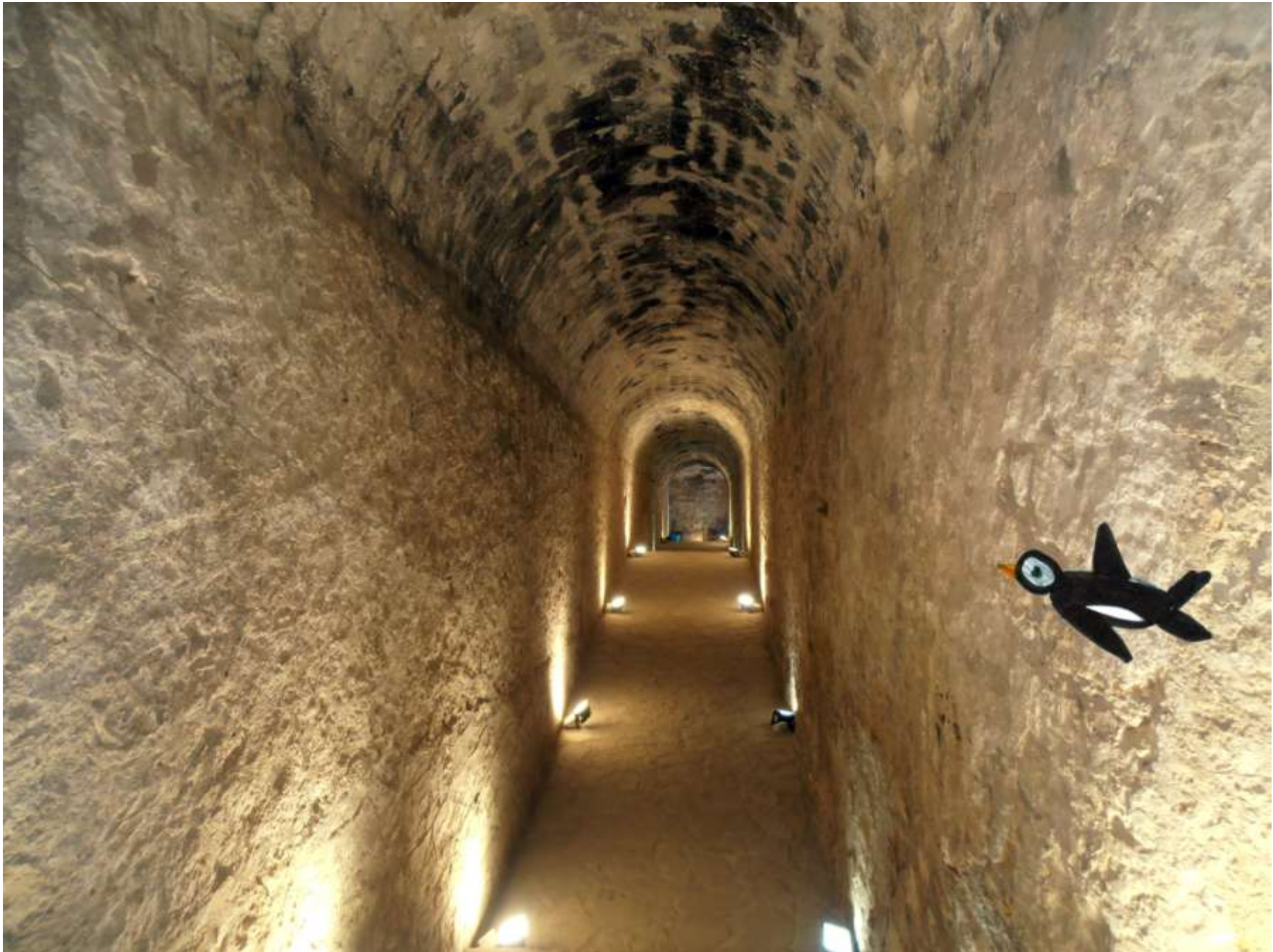
It turned back to continue the flight over the Walls, so it flew to the 6th bastion, the **Vitturi Bastion** and entered the **Gate of Vitturi**



The little swallow found itself in a small square.



It flew around and saw a small gate to the wall.

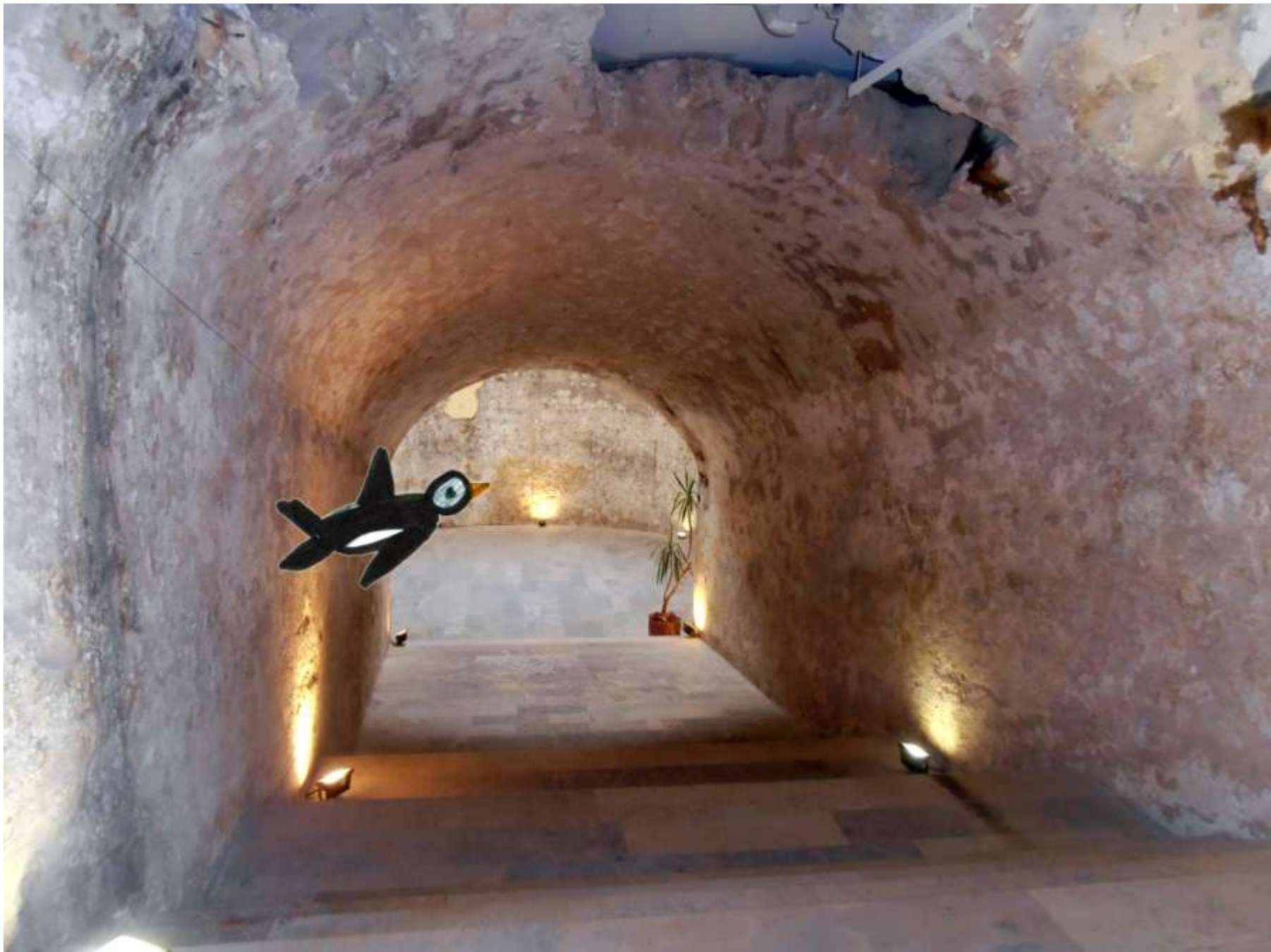


It passed through the low entrance inside the Walls, followed the long tunnel and got out at its end.



At the **Gate of St George** it met the 4 clever magpies for the 3rd time. The 3rd magpie was heard: **-4 lions and 8 basins fill up 40 water jugs in a moment, the name of the fountain there you'll be told!**

-And nearby another fountain exists, in a hidden pathway it stands, added the 4th magpie.



The little swallow flew through the marvelous Gate,



it approached the exit,



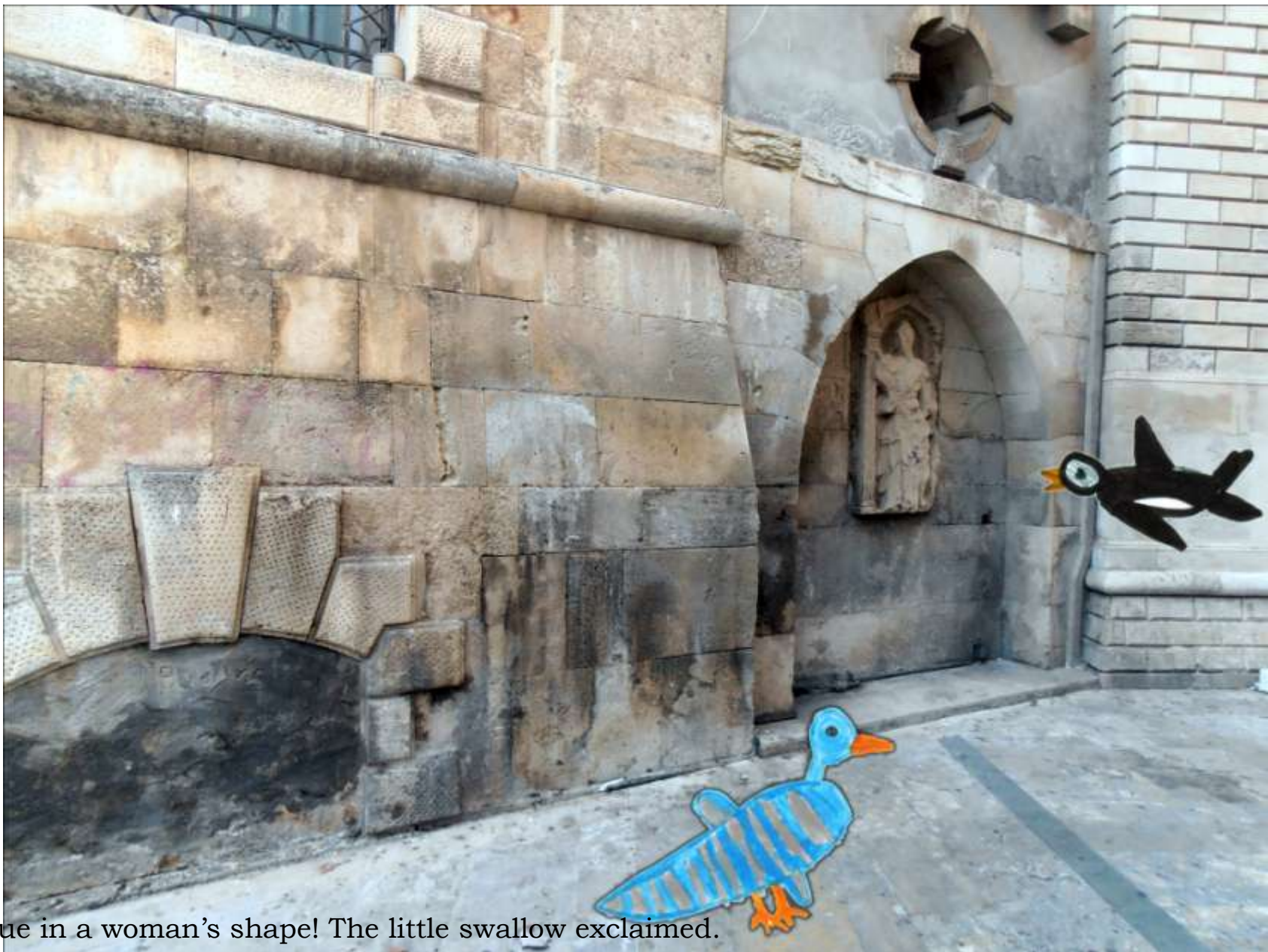
and came out, looking at the coats of arms from high above.



It arrived at the well-known **Morosini's Fountain**. The blue-and-white pigeon narrated the exciting water's story that travelled to the city from the mountains through the long stone-built pathway!



Then, together they passed in front of the **Loggia** and turned at the corner. There was the hidden fountain!

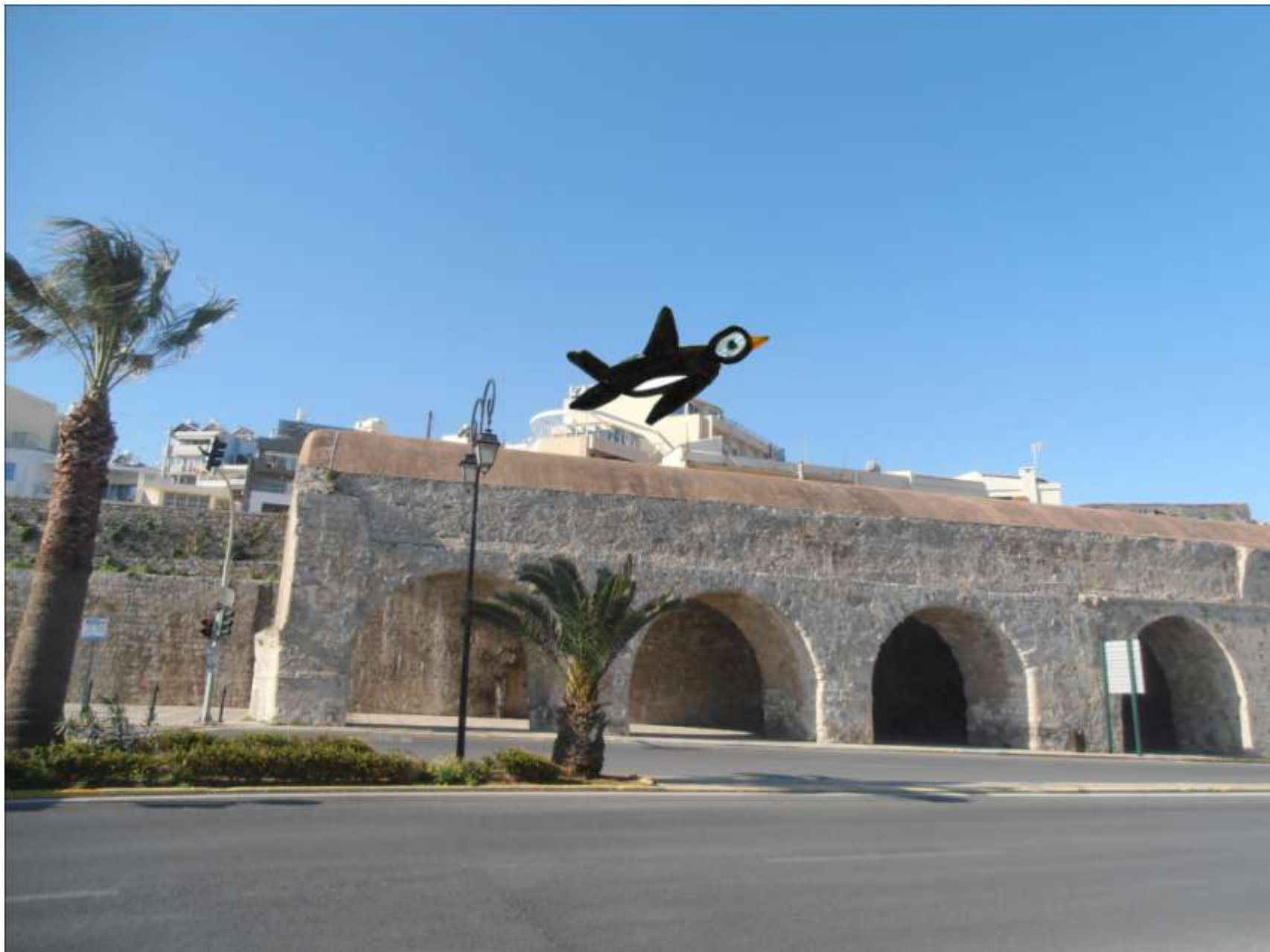


-A statue in a woman's shape! The little swallow exclaimed.

-It's the **Sagredo Fountain**; there is also a story here! The pigeon said. Yet the little swallow, which had learnt a lot, would very much prefer to continue its flight over the Walls, so it left.



Soon, it arrived at the 7th and last bastion, the **Sabbionara Bastion**. It stared at the horizon and noticed the ships. It was now approaching the sea again



The little swallow flew down to the old **Venetian port** and over the **Arsenals** and learnt their history, about the ships that were conserved and repaired inside.



It learnt everything from the crane! Then, it flew towards the castle.



Up there, the little swallow met for once more the wise pigeon that asked: –Well, what have you learnt? Did you discover stone-built treasures? Have you chosen a place to build your nest? - I have seen and learnt so many amazing things during my journey that I can't yet choose! It simply said.



The little swallow flew over the Venetian castle of the port, the well-known **Koules**. The journey had not yet come to the end. The castle was waiting for it...A new exploration was just beginning!

Note

The history of **Heraklion** (or **Khandakas** according to its old name) is very long. Many conquerors left their traces behind throughout the centuries, because the city is situated at the crossroad of sea routes. Traces of past wars and sufferings constitute in our days admirable monuments of civilization, connecting the past to the present.

The **Venetian Walls of Heraklion** were built during the Venetian period in Crete. After the Venetian conquest in 1211 and the first 150 revolutionary years of the Cretan people, during a rather peaceful period, monumental buildings were constructed in the capital (palace of the Duke, Loggia, temples, fountains), while the city was fortified with walls and the castle of the port, *Koules*.

The construction of the Walls lasted almost 2 centuries, beginning in the middle of the 15th century. This admirable fortification that has the form of a triangle, with 7 bastions, and the other elements (upper-bastions, Cortina, low squares, Cannon Embrasures, secret corridors, outer ditch, etc.), is one of the most significant monuments of its kind.

The city could communicate with the suburbs and the countryside through 3 main gates that were designed with architectural splendor: the Gate of St George (east suburbs), the Gate of Pantokratoras (known as Khanioporta, west suburbs) and the Gate of Jesus (known as New Gate, southern suburbs). There were also other minor secondary-military gates as the Bethehem Gate, the Gate of Dermata (middle of the seawall), while others do not exist today.

Information: Heraklion, a city, a story, **Website of Heraklion city:** www.heraklion.gr





Map of the Venetian Walls (City of Heraklion, 2001)

Create your own Math problems!

The protagonists:

the 3 sea gulls



the little swallow



the 4 clever magpies



the 3 talkative sparrows



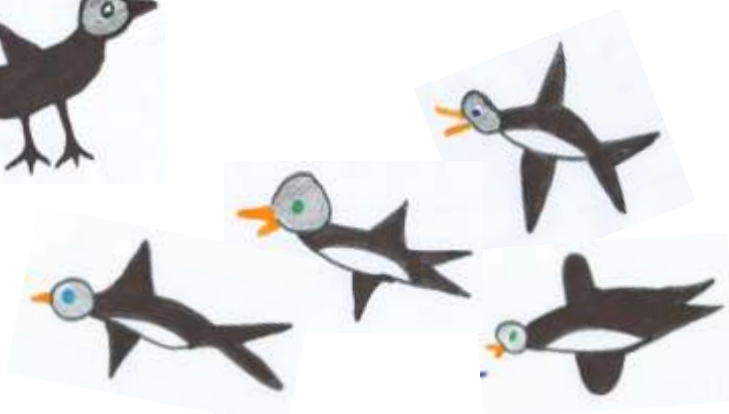
the black raven



the cat



the flock of swallows



the blue-and-white pigeon



the crane



the wise pigeon



Search for more math!



Morosini's fountain has 8 similar basins: it was designed so that x people standing around each basin and holding 1 jug each could fill up with water 40 jugs totally.



Greetings from Heraklion!