

ILLUSTRATED BY BOSTJAN PLESNICAR



ANEJ
SAM

A month later, bathed in the purple glow of a setting day, he walked reverently with his fingers through a freshly printed book, *Time for Tea*. Thus, he said:

My child! You are a living being now. Fulfil your task and go out into the world. Spread the message. And be ready for anything. Some will honour you, others will not even notice you. And you will also meet those who would burn you at the stake.

That is the destiny of the book. Despite the cost, the task must be done. So travel. Many will need you. Especially the children will need you.

Talk to them. I've been careful to make the conversation completely honest. Nothing must be hidden from the children. It's dangerous to overdo it. Here and there, it's even out of place. Then travel as the truth travels. Yes, like the truth. That's how you can help the helpless —the children. But tomorrow the children will grow up. They will rule this world. With beauty, help them take shape, become good people. In this way, you will help people, animals, plants, water and air, all of them.

Travel! Come to this clearing sometimes. Pass on a little of the rhythm of life.



AT TEA - RAISING CHILDREN

Children's Choir

Be fair and kind to everyone—that's what some parents teach us. Take care of yourself and get what you can, others will prepare us for such a life. All people are brothers and sisters, some teach us; other people are worth less than us - some tell us so. Book, tell us how this is possible!

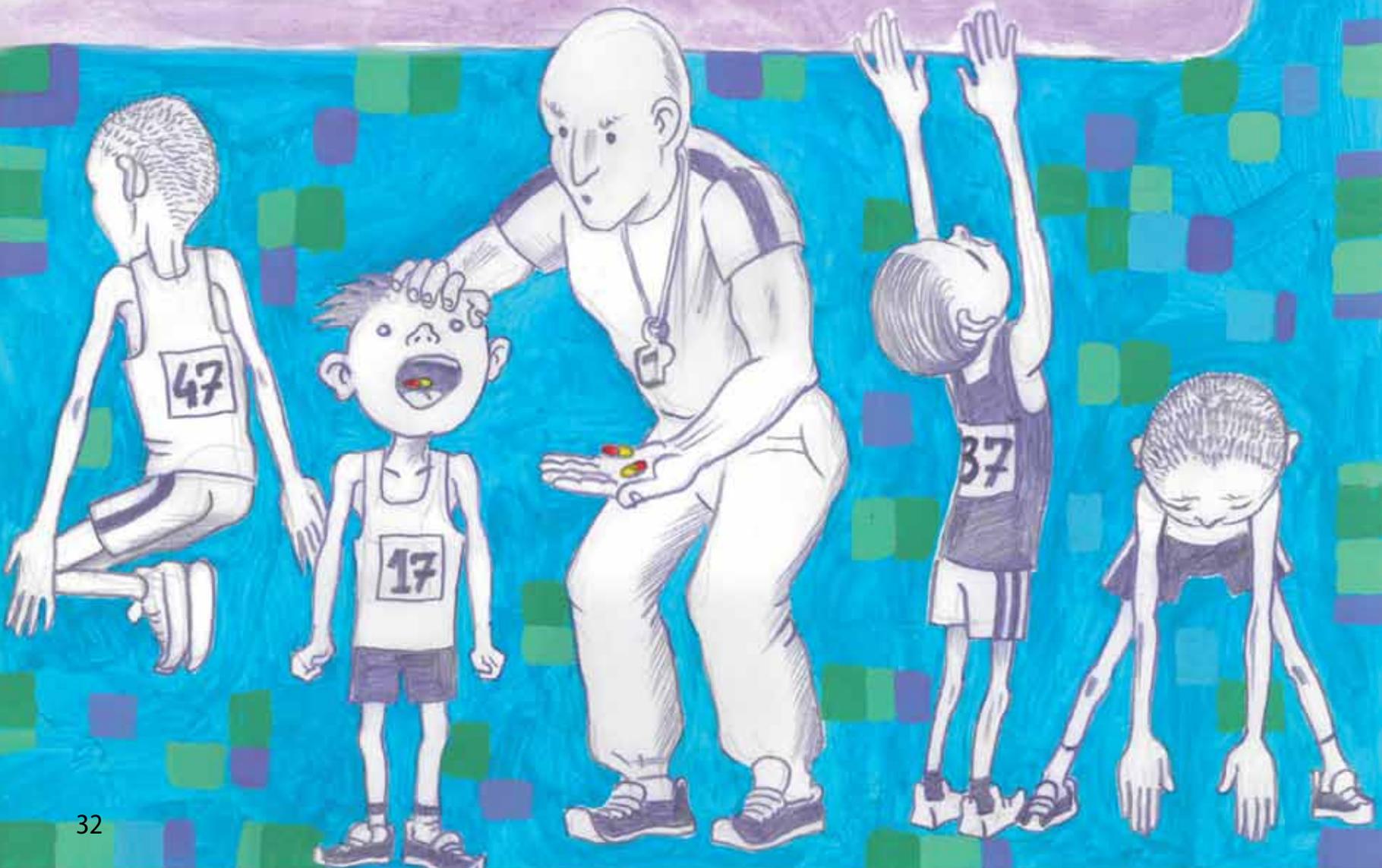
The Book

Many parents and teachers are raising you in the wrong way and changing your expectations in an unwise way. This is very unfortunate. Play and friendship, learning and love - these are the needs of all of us. Because of ignorance and foolish wants, some people deprive you of the beauty of life. Tomorrow at tea, tell them that you want to become good people. Tell them to give you the means to do so.



The Book

It is not in the nature of a child to beat his friend. There's something odious about wanting to win. A child wants to be on an equal footing with his friends, each of them to follow their own talents. Victory over others is necessary for those who live in the wrong way. They force you to master as many skills as possible. By using sedatives or stimulants, they only make your problems worse. Children and adults need only one skill: the one that allows you to reach the fullness of life. This is what you should tell the adults tomorrow at tea.



The Book

Let the adults talk about the different beliefs. When you're a grown up, you will do the same. But adults should not impose their views on you. When you grow up, it will be up to you. Until then, life is what surrounds you—what you see, hear, feel and live. The worst thing is that they tell you that life is something you don't see, hear, feel and live.



Children's Choir

As early as in kindergarten and primary school, some adults distract us from the beauty of nature. Tell us, Book, why do they do this?

The Book

It's hard to understand them. It's as if some adults want the human race to disappear. A certain doctor, who thought a lot about the beauty of life, warned us 2,500 years ago that anything beyond the limits of nature is harmful. That's why the male has been associated with the female.



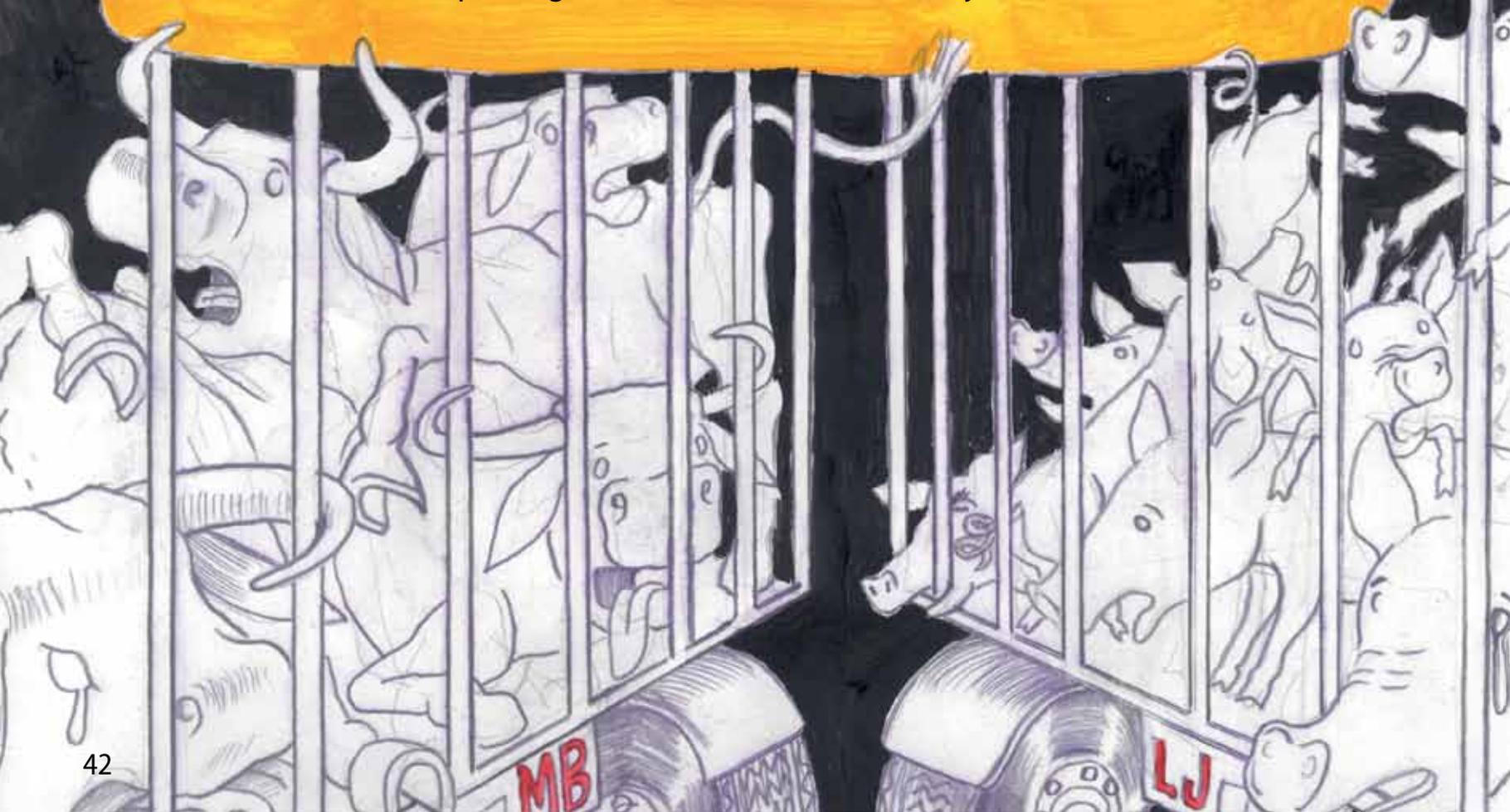
Children's Choir

Meat should not be eaten, even milk; nothing from the animals that many of them declare. So we participate in the torment and killing of animals, say the voices that are increasingly being heard.

The Book

A swallow eats a fly and yet does not torment it during this time. And it only eats so many to fill itself up. Such feeding is natural. In this way, the relationships between animal species are preserved.

Humans have spoiled this natural order. They eat more meat than they need. When they raise animals for food, they torment them cruelly. Some animals live their whole lives in narrow cages, and the journey to the slaughterhouse is long and arduous. Because of the bad customs of some people, slaughter is painful, the animals face a prolonged death. These are terrible injustices.



Children's Choir

We need to be empathetic to anyone's suffering. The habits of other nations enrich us. That is what many teach us. First of all, we must take care of ourselves, others say. Book, tell us what is right!

The Book

Kindness has to mean something. To help others, you must first help yourself. Only then can you help those who have not caused their own despair. With others, you teach them to help themselves. I have also talked a lot about mixing habits. Not all habits are good. Some bring unhappiness. The world is beautiful if there are many habits that are beautiful. Therefore, you must preserve them. But just by mixing for the sake of mixing, many habits that are good disappear. Only the strongest of them remain.



AT TEA - THE REASON AND THE HEART

Children's Choir

We must listen to the voice of the heart, we hear this thought so often. We must act with reason, others say. What should we say to adults? You tell us, Book!

The Book

A man lives with every part of his body. The brain and the heart are the most important. When you decide to do something, let them participate. How to dress? How to behave? Is a man with worn-out shoes or one in a wheelchair worth less? Do we have to accept anything that is different, including one that threatens us? Maybe only one who is beautiful? Is it fair that some people just lie around while others work so hard, while everyone receives the same salary?



Children's Choir

How should we live? Tell us, Book!

The Book

For two millennia, I have been spreading the advice of a wise and loving man. He advised a man to do what he can. If he can help himself and others, that's what he should do. If he cannot help many, let him help a few. If he cannot help even a few, let him help himself. He can help himself if he leads a decent life. In any case, he must do what he can.

This advice is useful. None of you can change the world. But everyone can do something useful. If you do what you can, you've repaid what you owe to life.

The Children's Choir

If there is nothing disgraceful in what we do and, moreover, if we do good, are we living correctly?

The Book

That's not good enough. Wise men have been warning us since time immemorial. As much as you can, oppose these vile events. You must follow an eternal truth: may the worst come closer to the best.



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