

The Legend of **PALMA RIGGINA**

A Tale from Ortigia

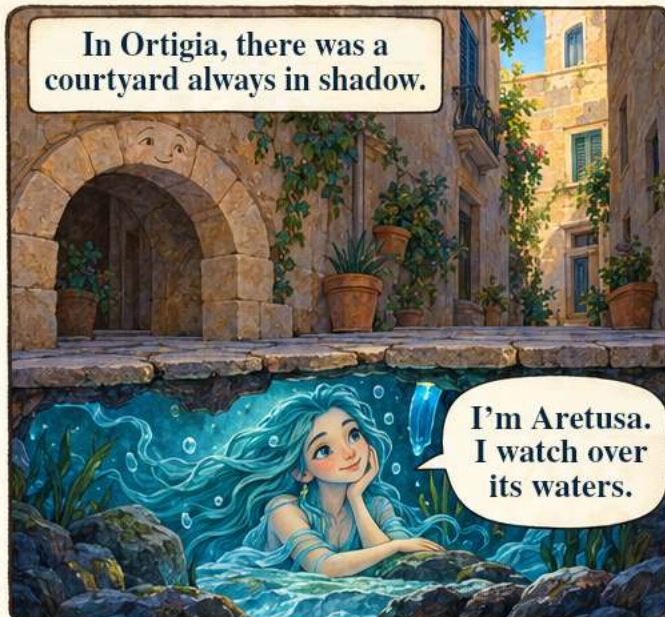


COOL DREAMS® ORTIGIA

THE LEGEND OF PALMA RIGGINA

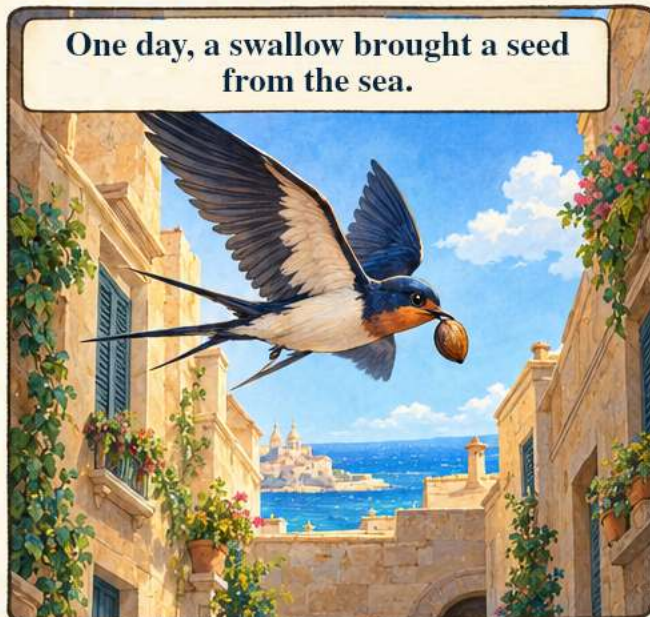
1 • A Seed in the Dark

In Ortigia, there was a courtyard always in shadow.



I'm Aretusa.
I watch over
its waters.

One day, a swallow brought a seed
from the sea.

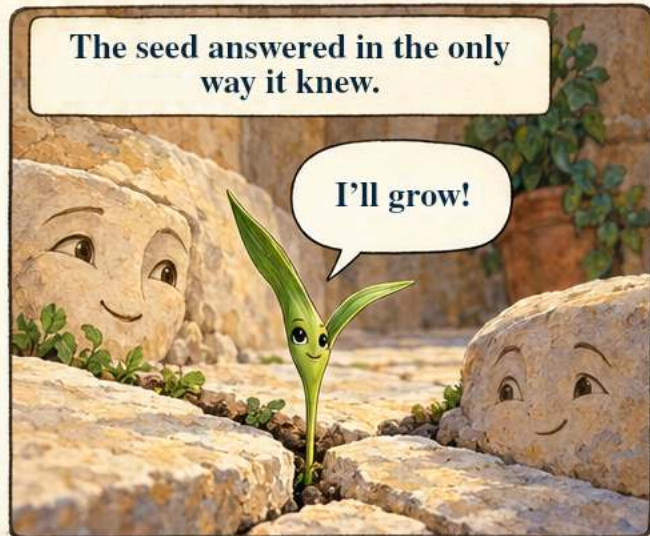


The seed fell between two stones... and listened.



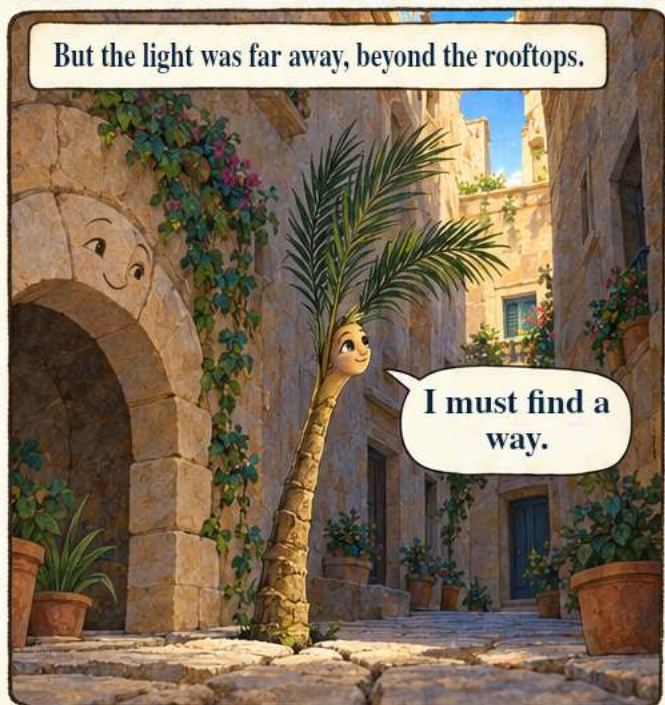
Hold on,
little seed!

The seed answered in the only
way it knew.



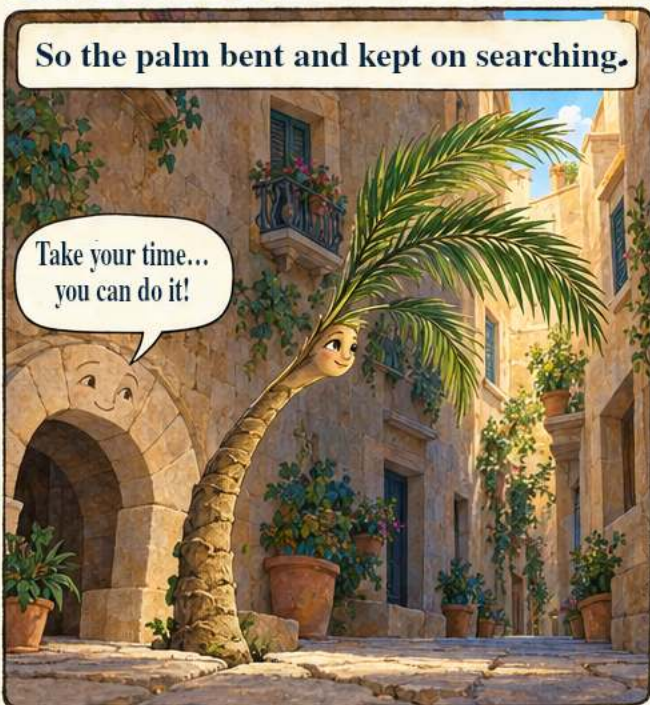
I'll grow!

But the light was far away, beyond the rooftops.



I must find a
way.

So the palm bent and kept on searching.



Take your time...
you can do it!

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2 • The Voices of the Stones

The courtyard spoke softly, through cracks, damp patches and echoes.

Every stone has a story.

Promises, goodbyes and homecomings stayed hidden in the walls.

Each night, the palm looked for a gap between the roofs.

I'll try again.

The stones watched her grow.

Don't go!

Go!

Be careful!

Keep looking!

The shadow kept her company. And hope grew in the courtyard.

I bend to find my way.

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3 • The Gift of Helios

One morning, Helios, the Sun, passed over Ortigia.

So many stories on this island!

In the shadows, he saw a palm searching for the light.

I see you, brave little palm.

Helios admired her patience and courage.

Light loves those who seek it.

He gave her a thread of sunshine, as small as a promise.

It didn't light up everything. But it was enough to keep her going.

There you are!

That thread returned for a few hours each day: brief, but faithful.

I'll wait for you tomorrow.

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4 • A Bell Tower of Leaves

The palm felt that warmth and found new courage.

Now I know where to go!

Her trunk stayed tilted. The new growth began to rise towards the sky.

She was no longer afraid to search.

Don't wait for the light. Reach for it!

She rose higher, like a bell tower of leaves.

Beneath Ortigia, Aretusa listened to the rustling.

I know that sound...

Springs know how to recognise a wish.

It's a wish that has found its way.

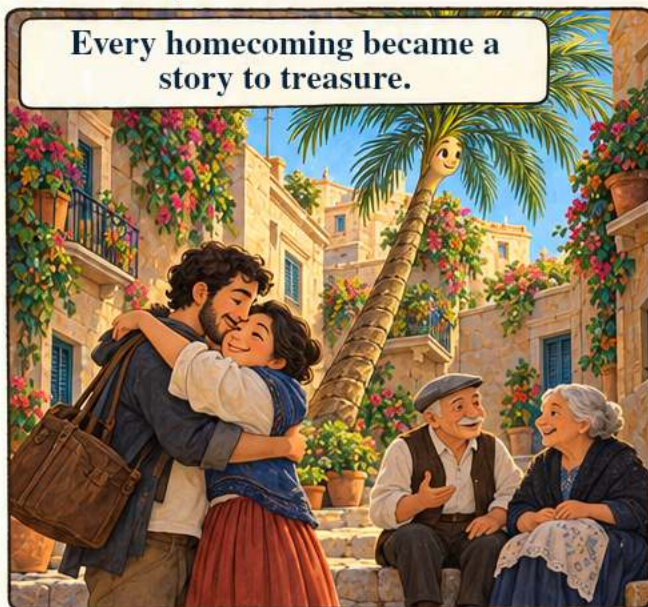
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5 • The Queen of the Courtyard

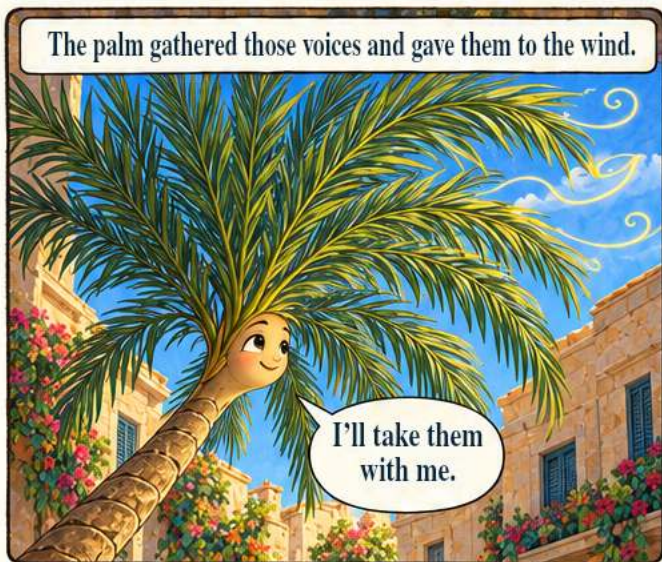
Voices, promises and smiles
came together in the courtyard.



Every homecoming became a
story to treasure.



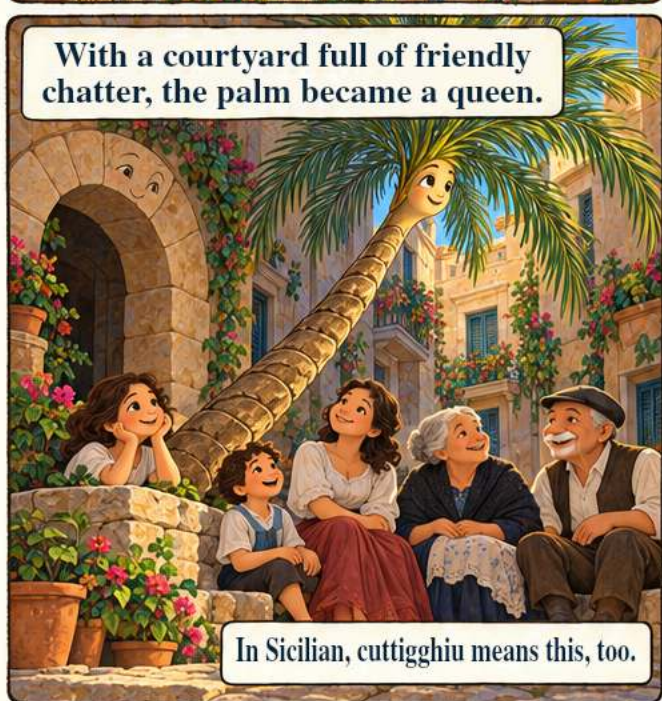
The palm gathered those voices and gave them to the wind.



People passed by, laughing and saying...



With a courtyard full of friendly
chatter, the palm became a queen.



And that is how the name was born:

**Cuttigghiu
dâ Palma Riggina**

The courtyard of the Queen Palm.

In Sicilian, cuttigghiu means this, too.



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6 • When the Voices Left

Then the people stopped listening. Not all at once, but little by little.



The chairs stood empty. The windows opened less and less.



They sought wider streets, taller houses and light that was easy to find.

Everything will be easier over there.

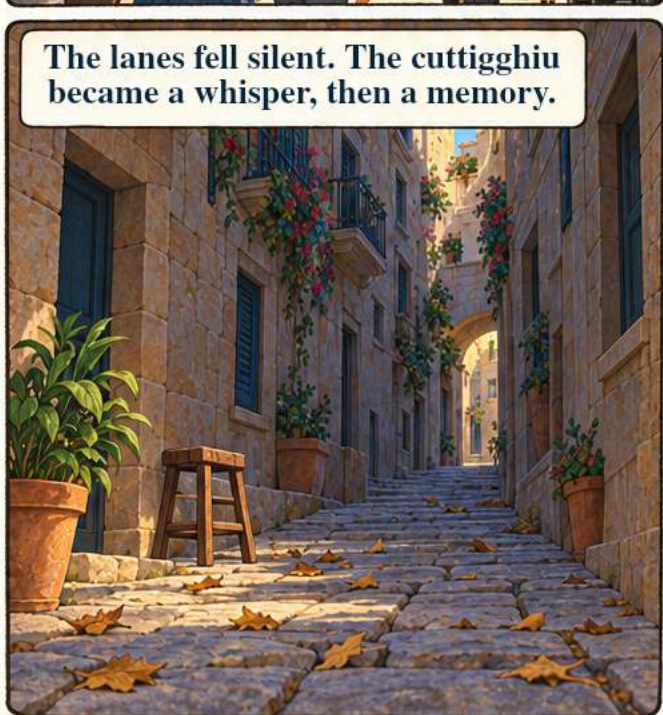


But old places ask for time, care and a listening ear.

Who will stop here now?

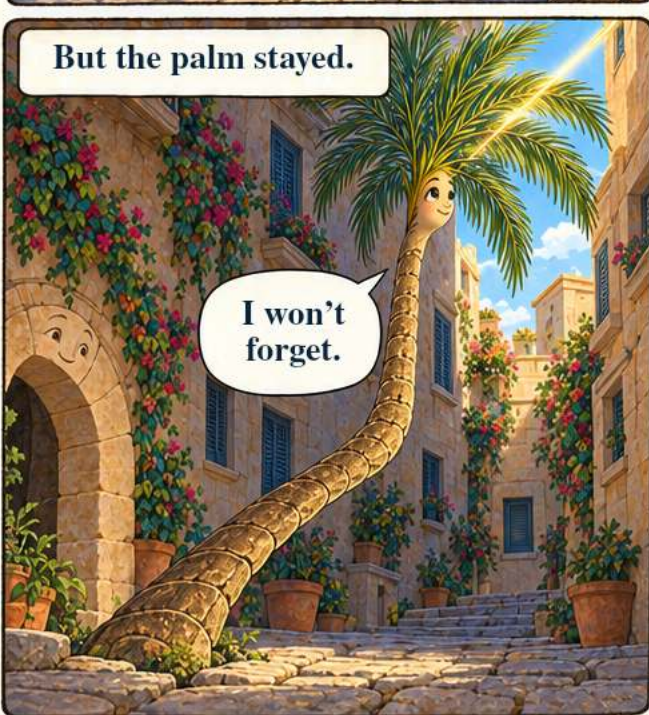


The lanes fell silent. The cuttigghiu became a whisper, then a memory.



But the palm stayed.

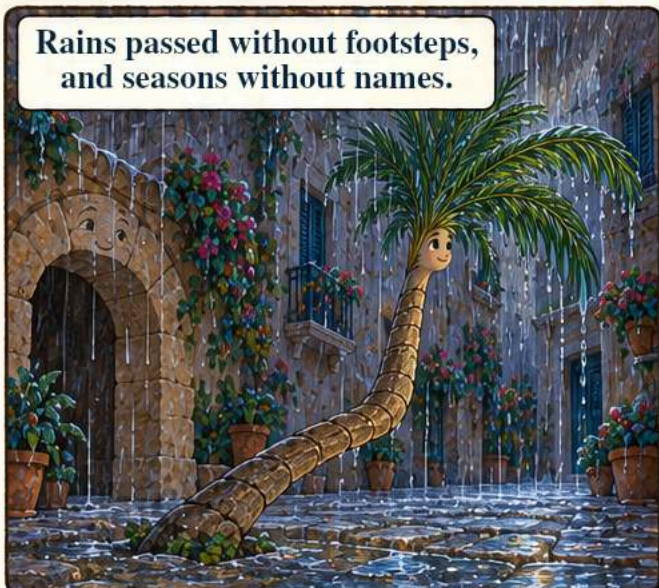
I won't forget.



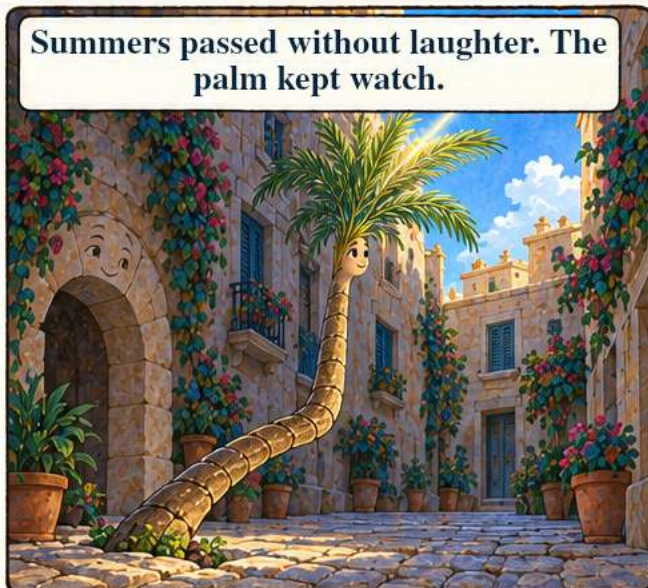
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7 • The Long Wait

Rains passed without footsteps,
and seasons without names.



Summers passed without laughter. The
palm kept watch.



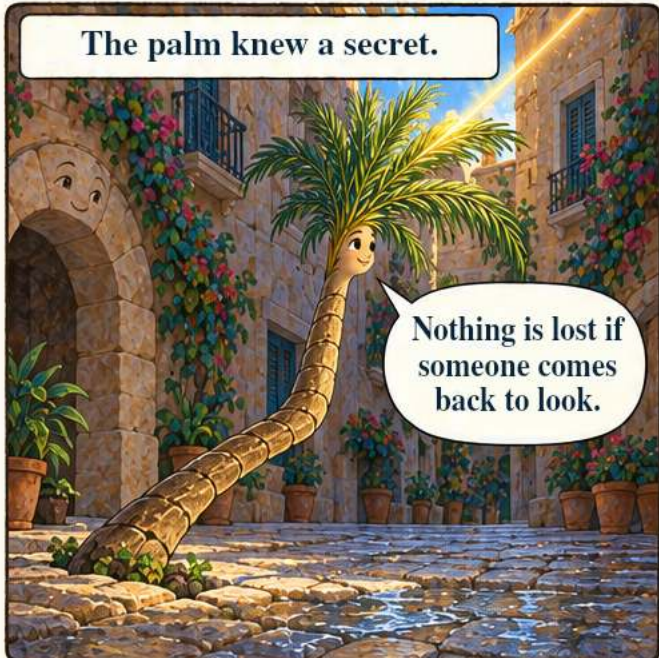
Helios returned each day, as faithful as ever.



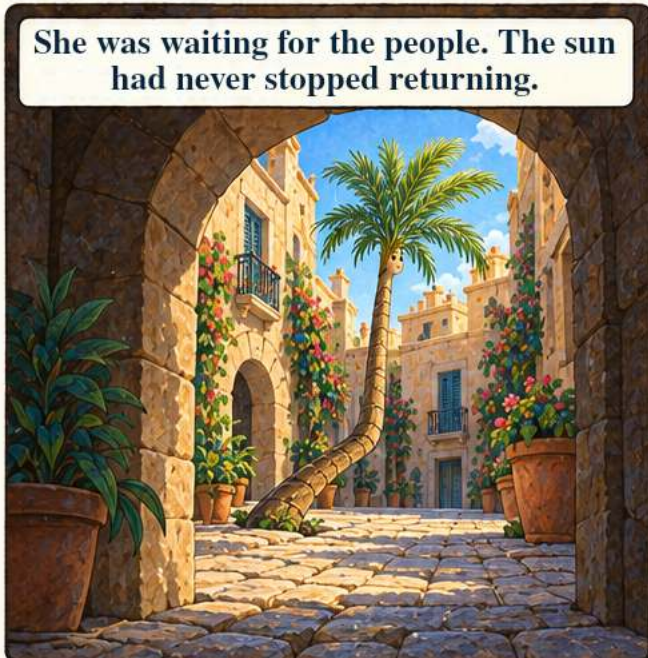
But fewer and fewer eyes were there to welcome him.



The palm knew a secret.



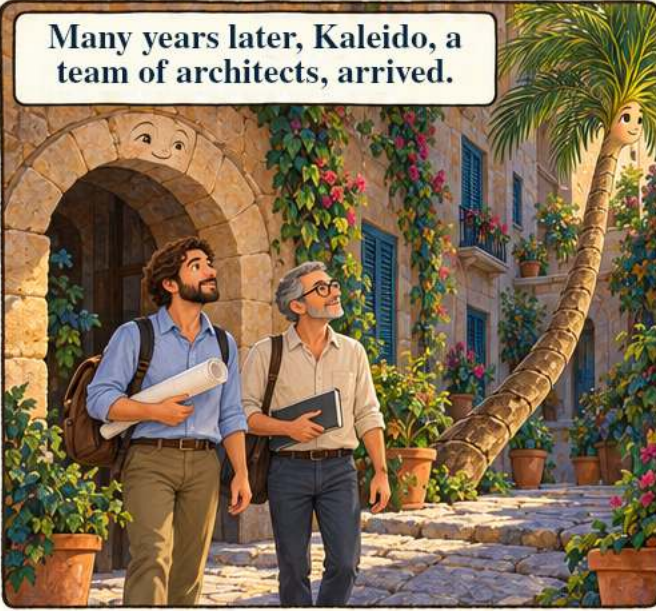
She was waiting for the people. The sun
had never stopped returning.



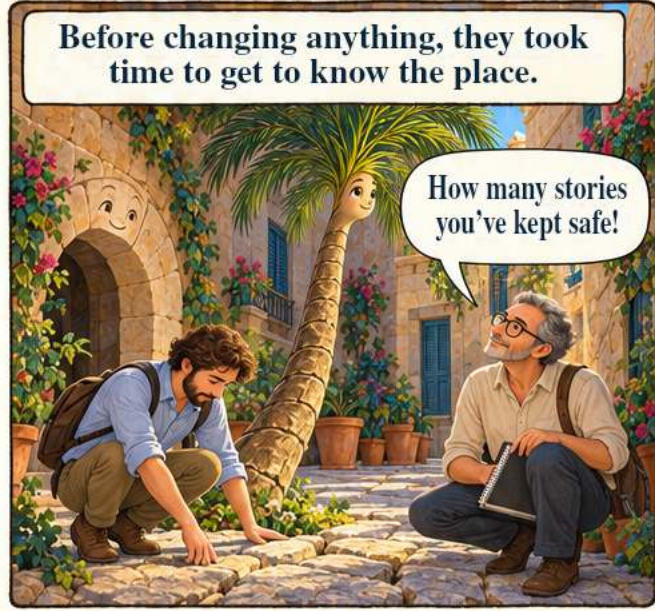
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8 • Kaleido Brings Life Back

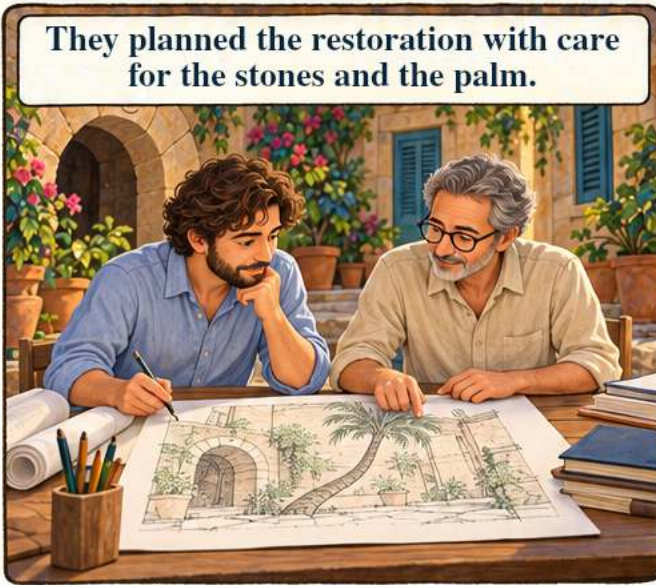
Many years later, Kaleido, a team of architects, arrived.



Before changing anything, they took time to get to know the place.



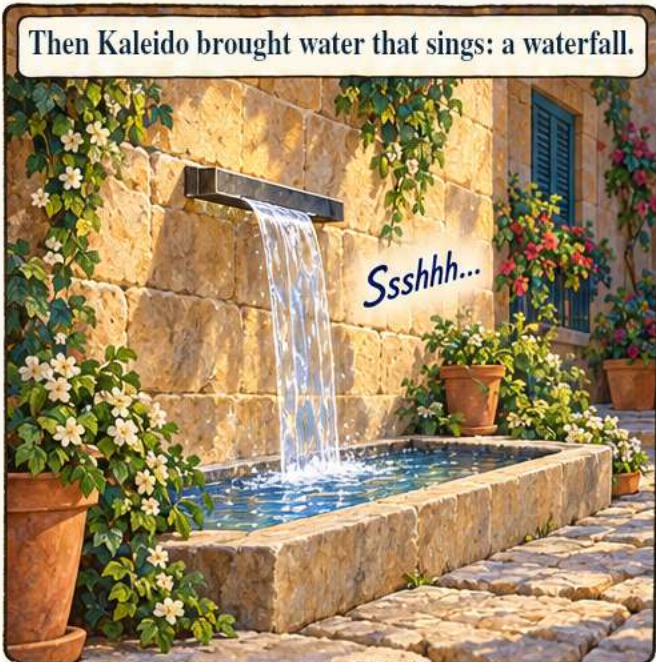
They planned the restoration with care for the stones and the palm.



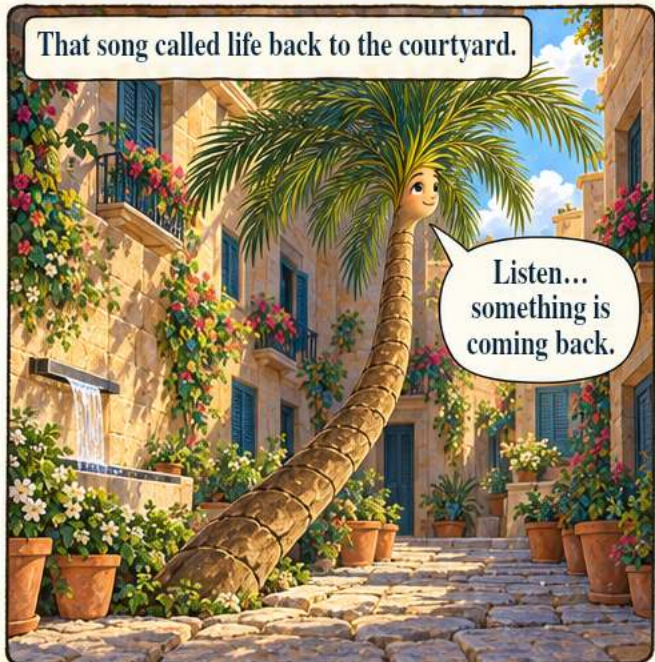
Little by little, the courtyard began to breathe again.



Then Kaleido brought water that sings: a waterfall.



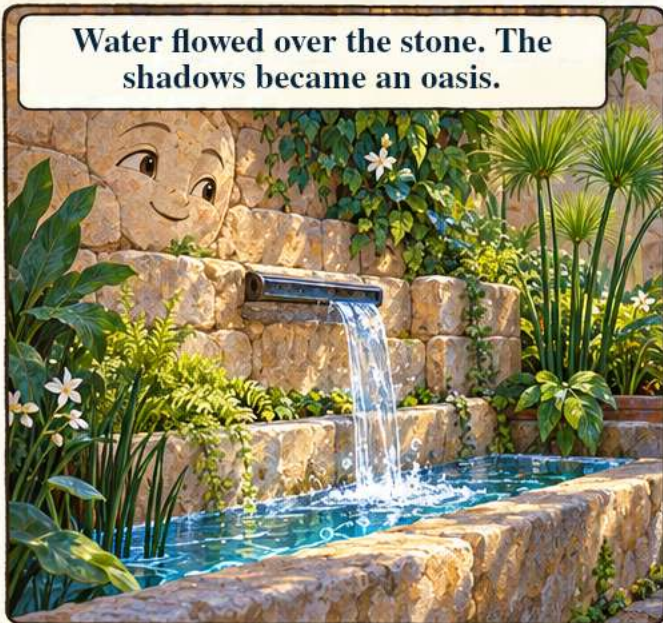
That song called life back to the courtyard.



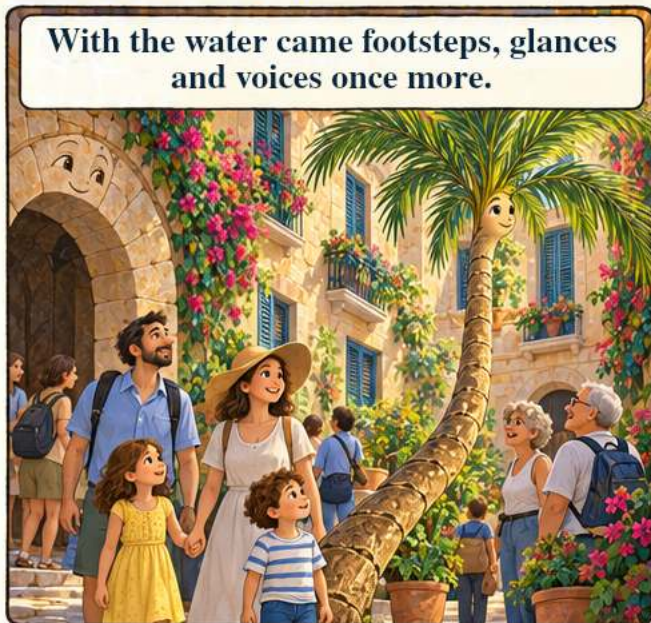
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9 • The Courtyard Becomes an Oasis

Water flowed over the stone. The shadows became an oasis.



With the water came footsteps, glances and voices once more.



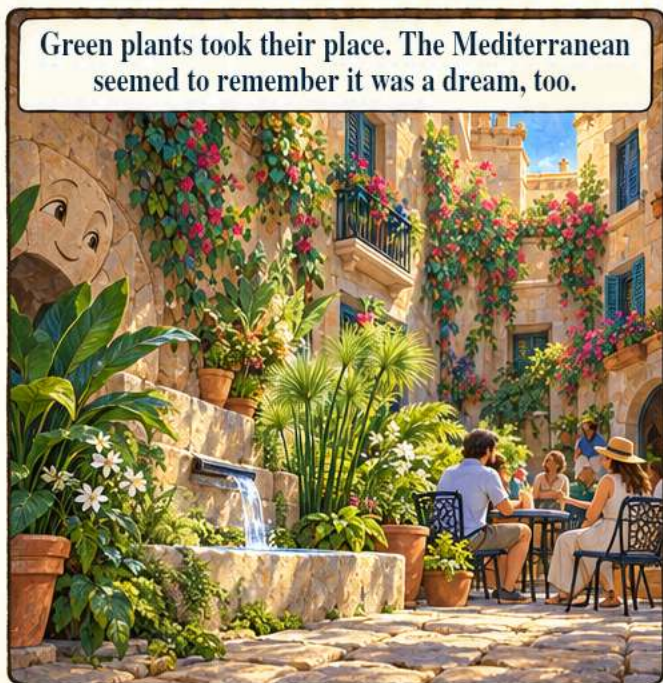
People entered as guests, ready to listen.



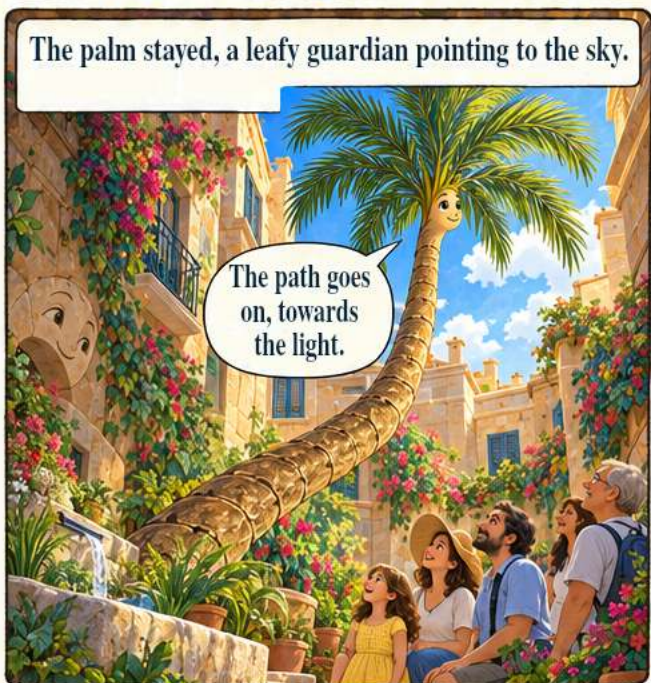
The walls knew the sound of life returning.



Green plants took their place. The Mediterranean seemed to remember it was a dream, too.



The palm stayed, a leafy guardian pointing to the sky.



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10 • Every Guest Brings a Story

Step inside today and stay quiet, and you may hear four voices.

Remember.

Helios returns, briefly each day, but always faithfully.

Seek.

The water sings among the stones.

Slow down.

The palm lifts her leaves towards the sky.

Shine.

And the courtyard whispers, with a smile of stone:

Cu' veni cca,
porta 'na storia.
Cu' si nni va,
nni lassa n'autra.

Whoever comes here brings a story.
Whoever leaves, leaves another behind.





The Legend of PALMA RIGGINA



A tale inspired by Ortigia, its waters and its memory. The voices of the stones and the magical events belong to the legend.

Credits



Concept, story, comic adaptation
and editorial design

Cool Dreams® Ortigia

Illustrations created using
artificial intelligence tools.

Little Words to Discover



Aretusa: a nymph and a spring, a symbol of Ortigia.

Ortigia: the island that holds the ancient heart of Syracuse.

Helios: the Sun in Greek mythology.

Cuttigghiu: Sicilian for courtyard and chatter; here, the friendly voices that become stories.

Kaleido: the architecture studio that restored and transformed the building.



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