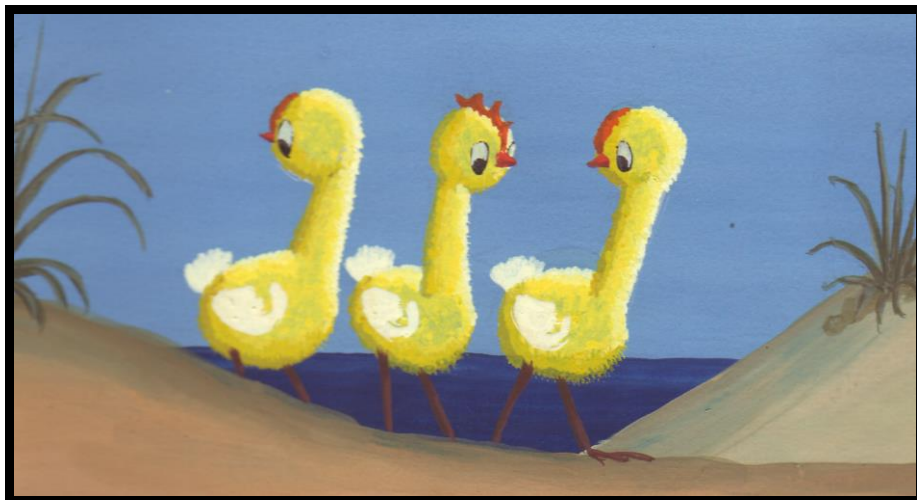


# The Three Chickens from Karmia

A story by Georg Eisner



**Originally painted  
1950 in Karmia (Israel)**

**Finally edited with text and additional pictures  
1997 in Bolligen (Switzerland)**

**Translated from the German by  
Susanne Eisner-Kartagener  
2014**

## Preface

I painted this book when I was in my early twenties, when I lived in Karmia from 1950 to 1952. We were a group of about 80 young women and men who had come to Israel from many different countries. Many of them were survivors from concentration camps who later had managed their way to France; others were young people from Morocco and Tunisia, and a very few were Swiss. Our task consisted of building a Kibbutz in a deserted corner in the south of the newly founded state, Israel, in order to cultivate the area and to farm the land.

During those years I worked as a carpenter, setting up tents and wooden cabins. For the chicken coop we built the roof and the windows, and the first "real" construction was our great pride.

At the time I was painting the pictures we had no furniture, only beds. I had but my knees as a table top. How I found the time to do it all I do not remember. There was so much work to do that in hindsight I cannot imagine how we managed to have any leisure time at all. But we were young, driven by energy and courage, and all of us were busy in various cultural activities.

For many years the paintings slumbered among my books. Now, 45 years later, when my own children are older than I was at the time, I have written up a text for my grandchildren, with the addition of some new paintings. The times depicted in the book are long past. The ideals of young people in our present days are quite different. This simple story, by no means a manifesto, told in those incredibly distant times by a young kibbutznik to the children in his kibbutz may help not only my grandchildren, but other children as well to get an idea about how we lived in those days.

Bolligen, March 1997

Georg Eisner

# 1. A Kibbutz is Built

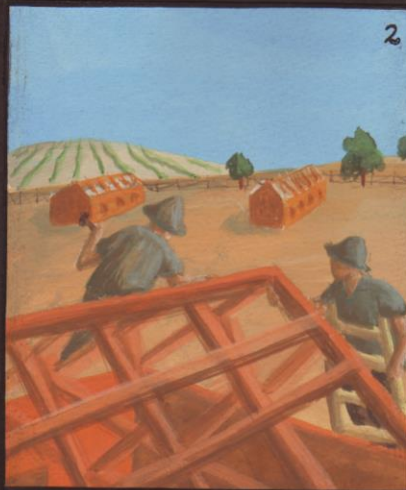
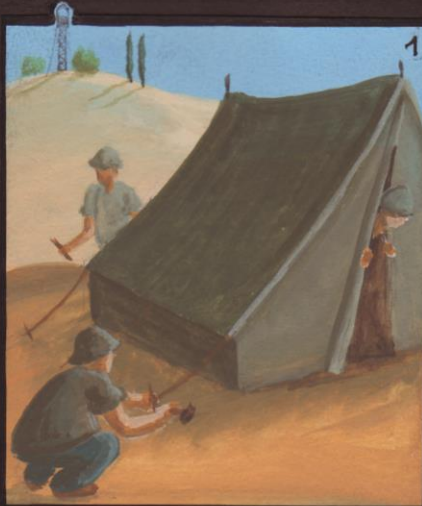
Once upon a time there was a group of young people who went into the desert to build a village. The village was called a Kibbutz and they named it Karmia.

1. First they put up tents. It all had to go quickly as they wanted to sleep there on their very first night. In addition, they built a tower on top of a hill to keep watch over the village.

2. Then they started constructing solid houses made of wood. The first wooden houses were meant for the children, so that they no longer would have to live in the tents where during the day it was sweltering hot and at night bitter cold.

3. Then they built stables for the cattle. The animals also needed shelter from heat and cold, so this all had to be done quickly, too. Therefore the stables were built with simple scaffolding and covered with corrugated iron. The doors remained open, there were no real windows, but at least the animals were sheltered.

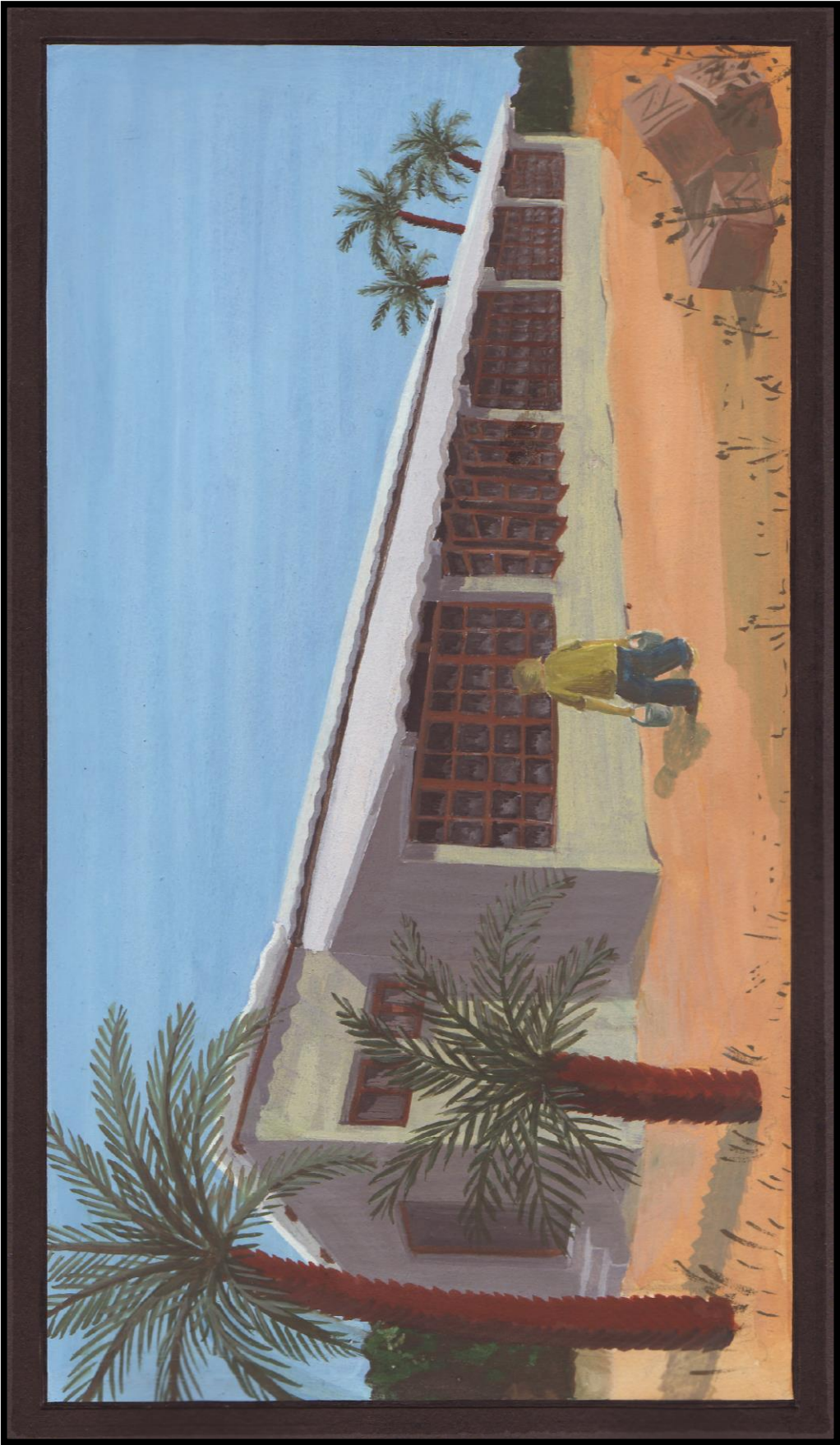
4. Finally, when all had a place to sleep in they started constructing real houses made of stone and concrete.



## **2. The First House Built of Stone**

The first house built of stone was for animals. It had a solid wall, real doors which could be closed, and light transmitting glass windows. The house was covered by a large beautiful roof which was rainproof.

Whom do you think this beautiful house was built for?



### **3. The Chicken Coop**

The first animals to get their real house were the chickens. They could not be kept in an open coop – or else they would have flown away!

Hundreds of little chickens were brought into the new coop. Food was provided in long troughs, and water came from small towers.

Three friends, Ricky, Ticky and Picky, would often meet for a chat on top of a box. What could they possibly talk about?





## 4. The Storm

One day a, a fierce, hot desert wind broke loose.

It tore through the trees and the palm trees. It ripped the electric wires off the poles. It overturned the boxes and shoved them all around.

The wind also ripped out the beautiful new windows of the chicken coop. Even though everybody would run immediately to pick up the windows and replace them in their hinges many of them were broken, with the panes in shards.

Big gaps remained in the rows of windows.

*Did you know? In the desert there may come up winds of enormous power. They are very hot. In the Near East they are called Kamsin. A violent Kamsin may cause a lot of damage.*



## 5. A Flight against their Will

1. When the storm arrived, Ricky, Ticky and Picky were sitting on top of their box where they would usually meet.

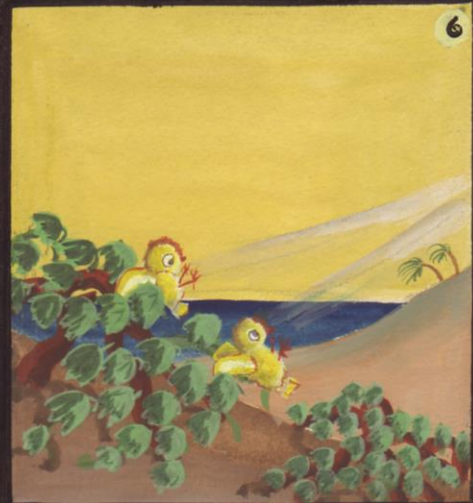
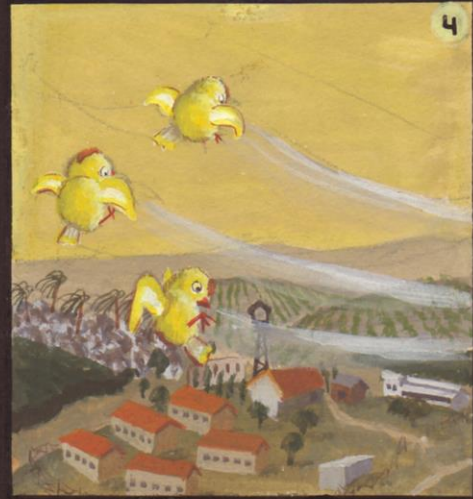
2. The wind lifted them up with all its power and took them off. In young chickens the wings are not strong enough to fight against the fierce wind.

3. Before they even realized what was happening they were already sucked through the broken windows out of the coop up into the sky

4. The wind carried them up high above the village, far away, to a foreign world.

5. Eventually Picky was badly hurled against a palm tree.

6. Ricky and Ticky for their part were carried even further, until they got to a vineyard. There their flight was stopped by the leaves and they landed smoothly among the grapevines.



## 6. Desperately Searching their Friend

1. Ricky und Ticky found shelter under the leaves of a vine, where they waited for the storm to end.

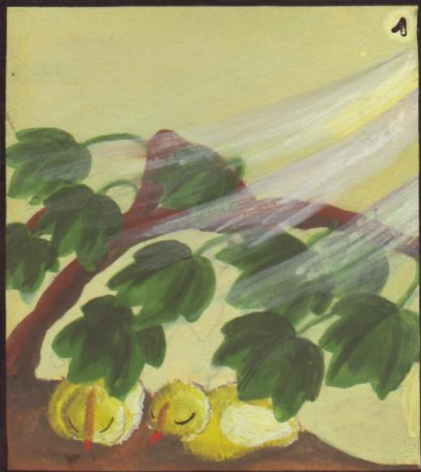
2. When the wind finally calmed down they both climbed on top of the vine to look out for Picky.

3. But wherever they looked, more and more desperately, Picky was nowhere in sight. "Where could she have ended up?"

4. Eventually night fell and it became pitch dark. The sliver of the moon gave not enough light to search any further and so the two chickens worn out as they were fell asleep.

5. All of a sudden they awoke to a draft of wings flapping: a huge bird was about to land. Two big eyes appeared above their heads. Ticky terrified was ready to take flight.

6. The bird landed on the vine was an owl. Amazed by the unexpected presence of two strange little birds in the vineyard it asked: "What on earth are you two doing out here in the wilderness in the midst of the night?" Ricky and Ticky told their story.



## 7. The Owl Offers to Search Picky

"No problem", said the owl. "My eyes can see at night, better even than during the day. I shall help you to find Picky. I will fetch a stick, both of you climb aboard it, and we shall fly around till we find your friend."

2. So they kept searching desperately all over for a long, long time, but no sign of Picky anywhere. Where could she possibly be?

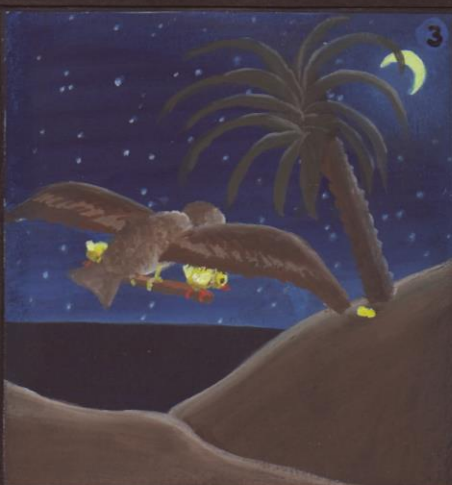
3. Suddenly they saw a bright patch at the foot of a palm tree. Could that be their long lost Picky?

4. "Yes, indeed – hoorrray!"

5. However, Picky was in bad shape. Seriously hurt from being hurled against the palm tree she was lying on the ground. Help was needed urgently, but wherefrom, far away as they were from the village?

*Did you know? Owls are night birds. That's why they see well in the dark. During the day, blinded by bright light, they will keep their eyes closed most of the time.*





## 8. The Spider Offers its Help

1. High above, between the leaves of the palm tree, a spider had spun its web. When it heard the noise it looked down and saw the accident on the ground.
2. Quickly it slid down on a thread which it had spun from a branch.
3. "What's wrong here?" it asked. Looking closely at the injured chicken it said: "Clearly she has broken a leg. We immediately need a splint to re-align the broken bones. This way they will heal perfectly – but that will take some time and a lot of patience."
4. At once the spider got going. It put some twigs around the broken leg fastening them with the thread produced from its own body.
5. The splinted leg was secured to the body of the patient by a sling of grass. The only thing lacking was a tool to carry off poor one-legged Picky. Again the spider knew a trick. With its own sticky thread and some sturdy twigs it built a stretcher. This is how the three friends could start on their way home.

*Did you know? Spiders produce a fine, sticky thread out of a gland at the rear of their body. This thread, extremely thin and fine, is nearly invisible, in fact visible only when drops of dew happen to cling to it. Yet it is strong enough to bear the spider's weight, and so the spider will slide along while spinning its web. The prey, smaller insects, will get caught for good within the sticky web*



## 9. Where to Find Food in the Desert?

The way was long and tiresome, and the stretcher was heavy. Ricky, Ticky and Picky were hungry. Exhausted they moaned: "High time to find something to eat, we are starving!"

Now where could you possibly find food in the desert?

Fortunately there were ants nesting in the soil. They had laboriously gathered thousands of grains which they kept in their nest underground. When they saw how badly the three chickens suffered from hunger they dragged some grains from their provisions and offered them to the starving three.

Injured Picky was served first. The two others had to look on, hungry. But no worry: they, too, were fed by the ants later on!

*Did you know? Ants live in nests underground. They collect grains, insects and other foodstuff which they will transport to their nest. There they keep them to feed on for themselves and their offspring.*



## 10. A Butterfly Prevents a Heatstroke

1. The three chickens kept walking, walking, walking. The sun was up, and it became hotter and hotter. No shade anywhere, no breeze. Picky began to feel sick. A butterfly, a swallowtail, immediately noticed: "Help is needed, I see a heatstroke coming!"

2. The swallowtail flew nearer, flapping fresh air around poor Picky. Thanks to its large wings the big butterfly could also provide some shade.

3. Eventually, well looked after as it was, Picky felt better. Her leg had healed and the splint could be removed. What job though to unwind the spider's long thread! In the meantime the swallowtail sat down on a flower watching things till everything looked fine.

4. Picky still somewhat wobbly was happy to be able to walk again on her own two legs. The butterfly realizing that its help was no longer needed flew off. Did the chickens thank it, I wonder?

*Did you know? Strong hot rays from the sun will harm your body, and if you do not protect yourself you may suffer from a heatstroke. Do avoid staying in the sun and look out for shade!*

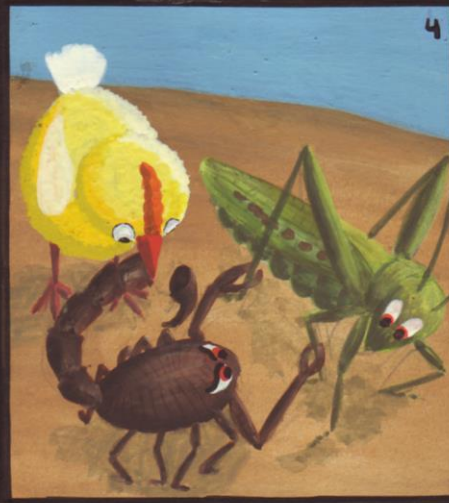
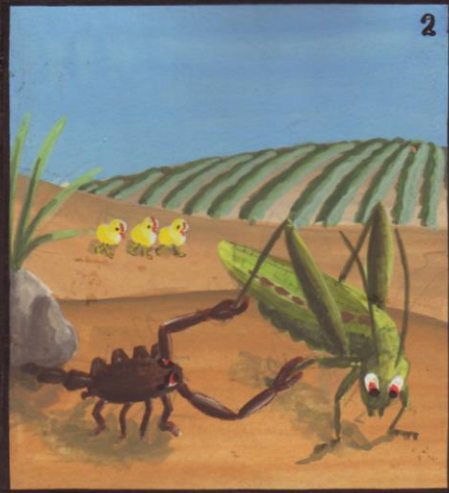


# 11. Rescuers from Danger

1. Elegantly a grasshopper landed next to a rock, unaware of the danger lurking nearby. After all, it might have known that in the desert scorpions may hide under rocks, on the lookout for prey. Watch out!
2. Sure enough a scorpion shot out of its hideaway. With its two claws it gripped the legs of the clueless grasshopper, which had no chance for escape.
3. With the scorpion bending its long tail and the poison sting ready to kill, the grasshopper called desperately: "Help!! Is there no one to help me?" As luck would have it the three friends were close enough.
4. Picky knew the poisonous sting to sit at the rear end of the scorpion's tail. Therefore with her beak she severed first its rear member and then its claws. That's how the grasshopper was rescued!
5. Gratefully the grasshopper put its arms round its courageous rescuers. Imagine how scratchy!

*Did you know? Scorpions will hide under stones or wood. When in an area known for scorpions keep your eyes open when lifting up stones or pieces of wood. The scorpion grips its prey with its claws, bending its tail forward to prick the prey with the poisonous sting at the rear of its tail.*





## 12. The Mosquito

1. A mosquito had stung Picky at the top of her comb.
2. Picky was angry. "Just you wait – I'll catch you for sure!" - however, it was not all that easy.
3. "Turn around!" But sure enough the mosquito escaped.
4. "Bend over!" – yet still the mosquito was not for catch.
5. Finally the mosquito was gone for good. "Hey, everybody, come on over. A miracle! A mosquito has mysteriously disappeared"

*Well, had Picky looked more closely she would have seen that there was no miracle at all. In the tree nearby she might have discovered a chameleon, disguised as usual, having caught the mosquito with its long sticky tongue and swallowed it in one gulp.*



## 13. A Master of Disguise

1. The three friends were spellbound looking at the spot where the mosquito had so strangely disappeared. Yet the chameleon could not be seen – it had taken on the very colour and pattern of the leaves.
2. Right in front of their eyes the chameleon was climbing down the trunk of a tree. Yet still they could not see it for it had changed colours appearing now exactly as brown as the bark.
3. When the chameleon was walking by right next to them, once more it had changed colours. It was now as tawny as the ground. Unable to see it the three of them kept looking out into the wrong direction.
4. Waiting under the grass leaves the chameleon had again changed colours. Now it was speckled green-yellow. The three chickens standing in front of the tree were still looking in vain.
5. There must have been a mystery after all. Firmly believing so, they started out on their way back. The chameleon for its part went back up the tree. What colour did it take climbing back up again?

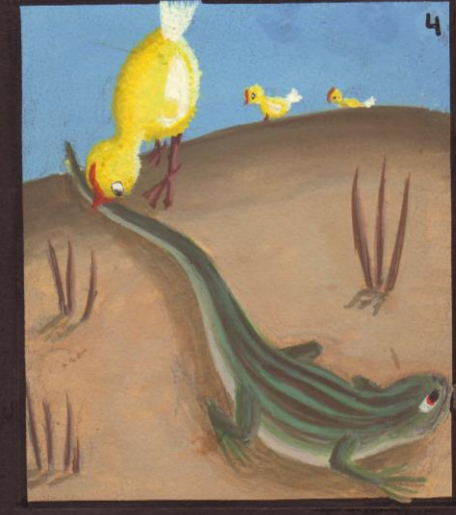
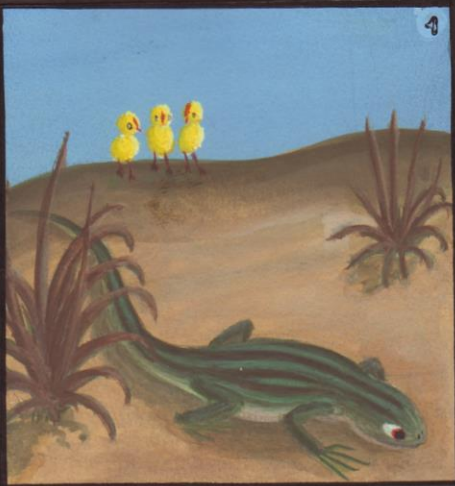
*Did you know: the chameleon can change the colour of its skin from green to yellow, to brown; some say according to its surroundings, others say according to its mood, that is, whether it is excited or relaxed.*



## 14. Surprise – Just a Tail?

1. The three friends kept walking through the desert. "What's that, over there?" A pretty green lizard was basking in the sun.
2. "Off we go, let's catch it!!!"
3. But the lizard went fast! The three kept running after it. Picky inadvertently tripped over and fell on her face.
4. At last Ricky managed to catch the lizard by the tip of its tail.
5. And – what happened? The lizard simply dropped its tail and ran off. The chickens to their surprise ended up in front of a wriggling tail left behind – with the lizard off and away.

*Did you know: Lizards protect themselves against enemies by simply dropping and leaving behind their tail, which as it keeps wriggling will divert the pursuer. For the lizard this results not in a permanent damage, as its tail will gradually grow again, albeit not quite as pointed as before. So, when we find a lizard with a blunt tail end, we can deduce that it must have lost its tail through an unpleasant encounter.*



## 15. Water – Endless

On their long wanderings the chickens ended up at a place where they saw something they had never seen before: an enormous expanse of water.

Water, water, nothing but water – as far as their eyes could see.

And at a distance, far away, there was a boat with a smoking chimney.

They had arrived nearby the ocean

“How can we get right to the sea shore?”

Surely it's a long, long way ...





## 16. The Ride on a "Taxi Turtle"

1. Suffering still slightly from her two falls, Picky was not feeling well. "How can we possibly get on?"

2. Ricky and Ticky took Picky in their midst to support her. But they grew tired! "We can't continue this way any longer – when shall we find a place to rest at last? In the sun we cannot lie for long, to be sure..."

3. Fortunately a turtle came creeping along. Ricky stopped it and asked: "Could we please ride atop your back? Our friend here is injured and exhausted."

4. "If you don't mind my slow speed, just hop on. Day in day out I must wear my heavy shell – the three of you, lightweights that you are, won't make much of a difference."

So they continued together on their way to the ocean.



## 17. Dangers of the Ocean

1. Picky to freshen up jumped right into the cool water. "Wait, don't go too far", Ricky called after her.

2. Too late. A big wave had caught Picky.

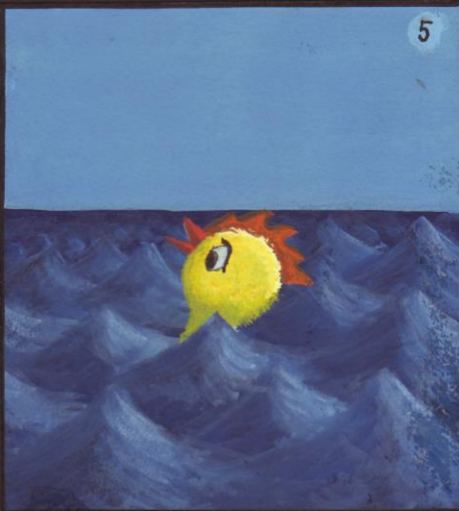
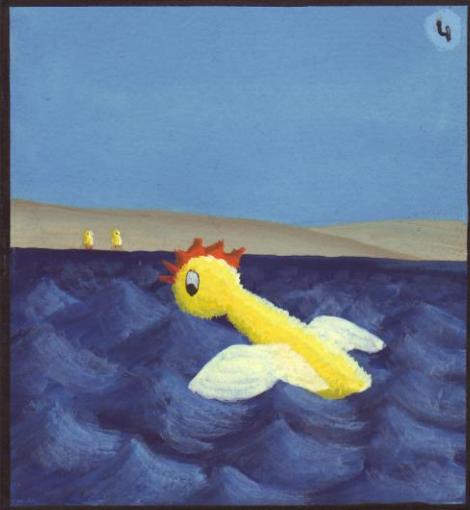
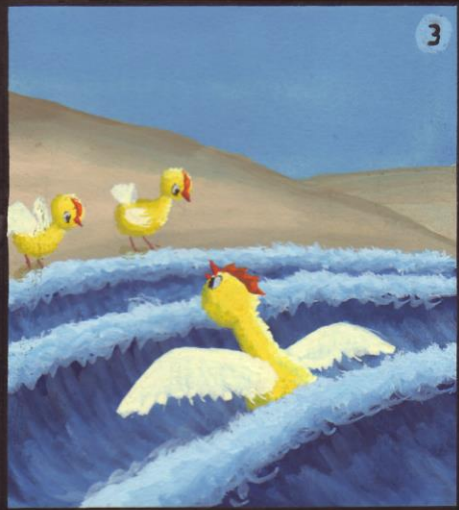
3. The current carried her off into the open sea, no matter how hard Picky tried to swim back to the shore.

4. Further and further away from the shore Picky was carried by the waves. Her friends called desperately to boost her courage.

5. Eventually Picky was so far out that she could no longer see the shore.

6. And finally she drowned, exhausted from fighting against the waves.

*Did you know: There are areas on the seashore with waves whose undertow will carry you first towards the shore and then, with great power back out into the open sea. Seen from the shore it looks as though the waves will break against the shore; however, the current works the other way round. Even accomplished swimmers are known to have drowned so.*



## 18. The Magic Underwater World

It was a miracle indeed: Picky did not drown but stayed alive. Deep down on the seafloor she met many strange animals:

1. A jellyfish shaped like an umbrella with hundreds of strings attached slowly floated past.
2. Fish swam around in large schools, each school swimming along in the same direction.
3. Lovely flowers growing on trees?
4. Whenever Picky approached, the flowers would close and retract into the tree. Actually they were not flowers, but coral colonies.

*Did you know: Corals are animals that build their own shell as hard as stone, some of them resembling trees. The actual animals are soft, shaped like flowers. They will come out of chinks in the colony, quietly undulating in the water. When danger is imminent they retreat into the coral rock for protection.*

5. A lovely pearl within a cup?
6. It is obviously not a cup, since its cover closed abruptly when Picky approached it. It is a living animal, a mussel.

*Did you know: a mussel is an animal with a hard shell to house its soft body. The shell may open to let in fresh water and food. When danger is imminent the shell will close tightly to protect the animal. Occasionally a grain of sand may enter the shell. Around this grain the mussel will form layer after layer of nacreous skin – that's how a pearl will grow.*



## 19. Still More Marvels

Picky was looking around detecting marvels after marvels ...

There were:

- Mussels dug into the sand, only partially visible from outside.
- A red starfish stalking along the seafloor on its many 'legs'
- A big lobster with hefty claws and long antennae
- Corals covered all over with 'blossoms'
- Fish, small and big, swimming alone or in large schools.
- A squid whose long tentacles had just caught a fish, with its rear end oozing a cloud of inky liquid.

*Did you know: a squid is not really a fish but a mollusc. It catches its prey not with its mouth but with long tentacles. Along the tentacles there are suction cups to grip the victims.*

*When feeling attacked the squid lets off dark ink from the rear end of its body as a cover. That's why in German it is called Tintenfisch (Inkfish)*





## 20. One More Marvel: The Feeding Flower.

1. At last Picky thought she had found a real flower. Strangely enough, it did not grow out of the soil but on top of an empty snail shell.

2. On Picky's approach the flower stretched out its arms towards her. "How scary" she thought, taking flight.

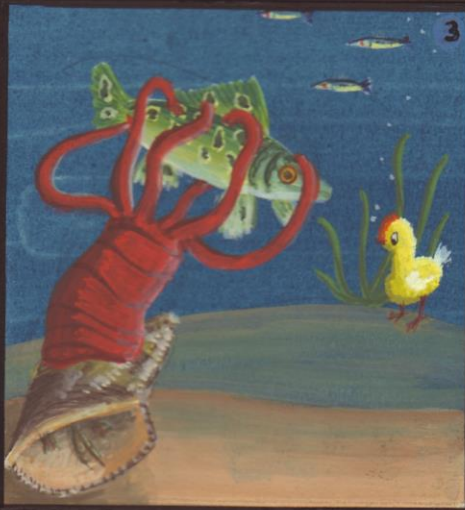
3. From a distance Picky watched as a small fish was getting closer to the flower. To her amazement the flower stretched out its arms and caught the fish.

4. Wondering Picky went closer. To her surprise the fish caught in the flower no longer budged.

And even more strangely: Inside, at the bottom of the shell something was moving around. Yet contrary to what you might expect it was not a snail but a small crab!

5. My! Shortly after the flower had devoured the fish leaving just its bones, the crab continued to feed on the crumbs that had fallen to the bottom of the shell. Horrified, Picky ran off.

*Did you know? Beside corals there are other animals looking like flowers. They are called sea anemones. A sea anemone cannot walk on its own. Therefore it will sit atop an empty snail shell inhabited by a little crab, called hermit crab. The crab walks along protected by the shell around it. This is how the sea anemone can move about. And the crab will feed on the remains of the anemone's catch. This way both will profit from living together ("Symbiosis").*



## 21. Danger Ahead!

1. Eventually Picky running out of breath was about to choke.
2. Unconscious she fell to the ground.
3. Danger ahead! All the fish, big and small, took flight – from whom? A huge shark, with its many sharp teeth, was closing in. Whoever was caught would be devoured.
4. And here was Picky, defenceless.

No help, no hope, nobody around?

**HELP!**

**HELP!**



## 22. Where to Find Help?

1. Meanwhile Ricky and Ticky were not idle. Of course they could not swim out to Picky, or else they, too, would have been swept out into the open sea. Instead they went to look for a big bird, an expert swimmer, so they asked a seagull for help.

2. Excitedly they told the gull what had happened.

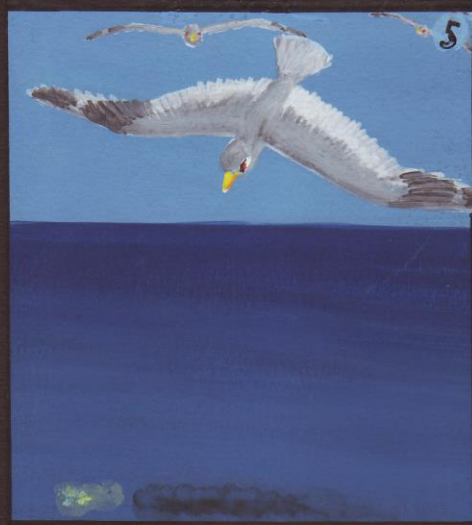
3. The gull immediately told its fellow seagulls, who again told their fellows, so that within a few minutes hundreds of gulls knew of the disaster.

4. Now there was a huge swarm of gulls searching the surface of the sea, each of them in a particular area.

5. When suddenly one of the birds discovered a yellowish patch in the water it was sure: This must be Picky!

But then, right next to her there was another patch, bigger and darker. A sign of danger? Yes, indeed!

Gull, do hurry up – quickly!



## 23. Help is on its Way

1. The seagull nosedived onto the sea surface...
2. ...and right down into the depth of the waters.
3. It found Picky right in front of the shark's mouth, which was looking forward to a delicious meal ...
4. And – hey – it grabbed Picky and swam off in a big hurry.
5. Quick, out of the water and back up into the safe air!
6. The shark - unable to fly - could only follow its lost prey with its eyes  
....

*It is true: gulls do not usually dive into deep waters. They feed along the waterside, or on the water surface. When they do dive it is only with their head and a small part of their body under water. In a fairy tale, however, anything is possible, so here the gull dives deep down to the sea floor to save Picky....*





## 24. Re-Animation

1. What a joy for Ricky and Ticky when the gull brought back Picky.
2. And what disappointment when they saw her. She seemed to be dead!
3. But there was a whisper from nearby: "Oh no, she is not dead" – and once more a butterfly turned up as a rescuer: "No, she can be saved. You will just have to reanimate her".
4. Immediately the rescuer got working .Deep into the chicken throat it introduced its long trunk normally used to suck honey out of flowers, and down through the wind pipe into the lungs.
5. It then sucked up all the water Picky had inhaled, and spat it out onto the ground.
6. At last Picky could breathe again. Waking up she looked around, wondering how she had got there of all places? Quite miraculously she was safe and sound again!

*Did you know: A drowned person or animal can be saved when the water in the lungs is removed right in time. The technique to do this must be trained in special courses. Not everybody has a trunk, like butterflies*



## 25. A New Coat of Feathers

1. The chickens kept wandering, away from the sea. But how were they to find their village again?

2. The chickens meanwhile had grown up changing their look all the while. Gradually white feathers kept pushing through their yellow fluff. So far only the tips of the new feathers could be seen.

They kept on walking along an alley of a special kind of cactus plants, called prickly pears.

3. A short time later their entire coat had changed into snow-white.

Ricky Ticky and Picky had grown up into full-fledged chickens.

*Did you know: The prickly pears, called also Indian figs, instead of leaves have large pads covered with dangerous long spines. Better not to get too close – keep off! At the tip of the pads grow tiny cacti with smaller spines, as fine as hair. These are the fruits – called **tzabar** in Hebrew - which are wonderfully sweet. However, how do you get to the sweet core? The pulp is under the skin, and the skin is covered with the tiny prickly hair that will stick to your skin. If you want to eat the fruit you will have to carefully take off first the hair and then the skin. To do so the fruits are plucked with a pole, thrown to the ground and rolled in the sand till all the fluff has come off. Then you may slice the skin with a knife, peel it - and enjoy!*



## 26. At Last: Back in the Village

Suddenly, what did they see over there: houses!

The chickens, tired and greatly relieved, were jubilant: "At last, at last we're back home!"

Ticky, however, looking around more closely, remarked: "Why, how very strange ..."

"There are so many houses made of stone. Yet when the storm took us away out of Karmia the houses were made of wood, our henhouse was the only one made of stone."

"And what about that big cistern on the hill? And that monument with the giant on top? And the damaged water tower which has fallen to the ground? We never had all this in Karmia!"

"How come things have changed so much?"

Strange, strange, strange!

"Let's find out"

"Off we go – to the village!"



## 27. Is This Our Kibbutz?

1. At dusk Ricky, Ticky and Picky got to the monument. Nearby there was a water tower, in ruins and gaping, useless for collecting water. They did not remember having seen all this before.

2. So the three chickens kept walking. Night had fallen, it was dark. There was a moon in the sky but its sliver was thin, shedding but scarce light. The beam of the revolving searchlight from the watchtower on the hill would light up only a small spot at a time. They could see only parts of the area, and these still looked strange to them.

3. Light at last! They had arrived at some houses where people were sitting on their doorsteps, reading and chatting. That, too, was quite unexpected. At the time the three chickens had been in Karmia people would sit outside tents or wooden houses and all around there was nothing but sand. The houses here however were made of stone, with front gardens with lawns and lovely flowers.

"Have things changed so quickly? How are we to find the way to our henhouse?"





## 28. The Henhouse too Looks Different

1. Ricky, Ticky and Picky kept looking further in the dark night. Suddenly, to their horror, they were caught in the searchlight. Terrified they scattered all over. The night watchman was wondering: "What are three chickens doing outdoors at this time of the night? Why aren't they asleep in their house?"

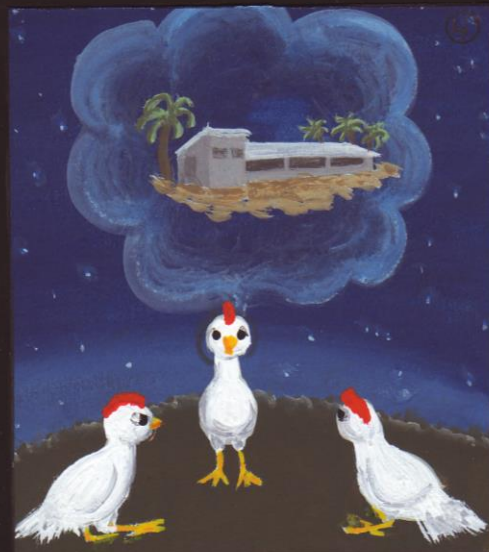
2. When the cone of the searchlight had revolved further on, the three chickens were sitting in the dark again. In the distance they saw windows with lights on. "Might that be our henhouse? Are we home at last?"

3. "Let's go there as fast as possible!" They ran, flapping their wings to gain speed. "Yes, indeed, this is a henhouse! Hooray, we're home!" Strange though: "There are so many henhouses around. We remember only one of them. How could they have built so many more in such a short time?"

4. "And our own henhouse? It looked quite different, didn't it?"

5. Gingerly climbing up the stairs, Ticky through a chink in the wall called for old friends, begging them to open the door. But nobody would recognize her, and nobody opened the door.

"For heaven's sake, everything here looks so wrong!"



## 29. Finally the Mystery is Solved

1. Daylight dawned. Ricky, Ticky and Picky arrived at a strange building: a tiny little cabin on top of a pole. This was a pigeon loft, where pigeons will build their nests. "Let's ask the pigeon what all this is about!"

2. "Please tell us, fair pigeon, how come Karmia has changed so much? We no longer find our way around our home village." The pigeon started laughing: "Small wonder! This is not Karmia at all. You have come to another kibbutz, this here is Yad Mordechai. I myself happen to have flown in from Karmia, my home village, to visit some friends here. What on earth are you doing here?" The three chickens told their long story and asked: "How do we get from here back to Karmia?"

3. "You know what? Why don't you write a letter? I'll take it with me to Karmia and post it there", said the pigeon. At once Ricky found a leaf to pick letters into it with her beak: "Please come to rescue us, fetch us in Yad Mordechai. Yours, Ricky, Ticky, Picky, from the Karmia henhouse."

4. Off flew the pigeon, to Karmia. Full of hope the three chickens watched it disappearing in the sky. "Will anybody read the letter? Will they come to get us?"

5. The leaf between its legs the pigeon arrived at its home village. It had been but a short flight, Karmia being so near Yad Mordechai.

*Did you know: pigeons will always return to their home, their pigeon loft. That's why in former times they were used as messengers. Travellers who wanted to write back home would take pigeons along in a basket. Letters attached to the feet of the pigeons would thus be sent off to their home destination.*



## 30. Back home

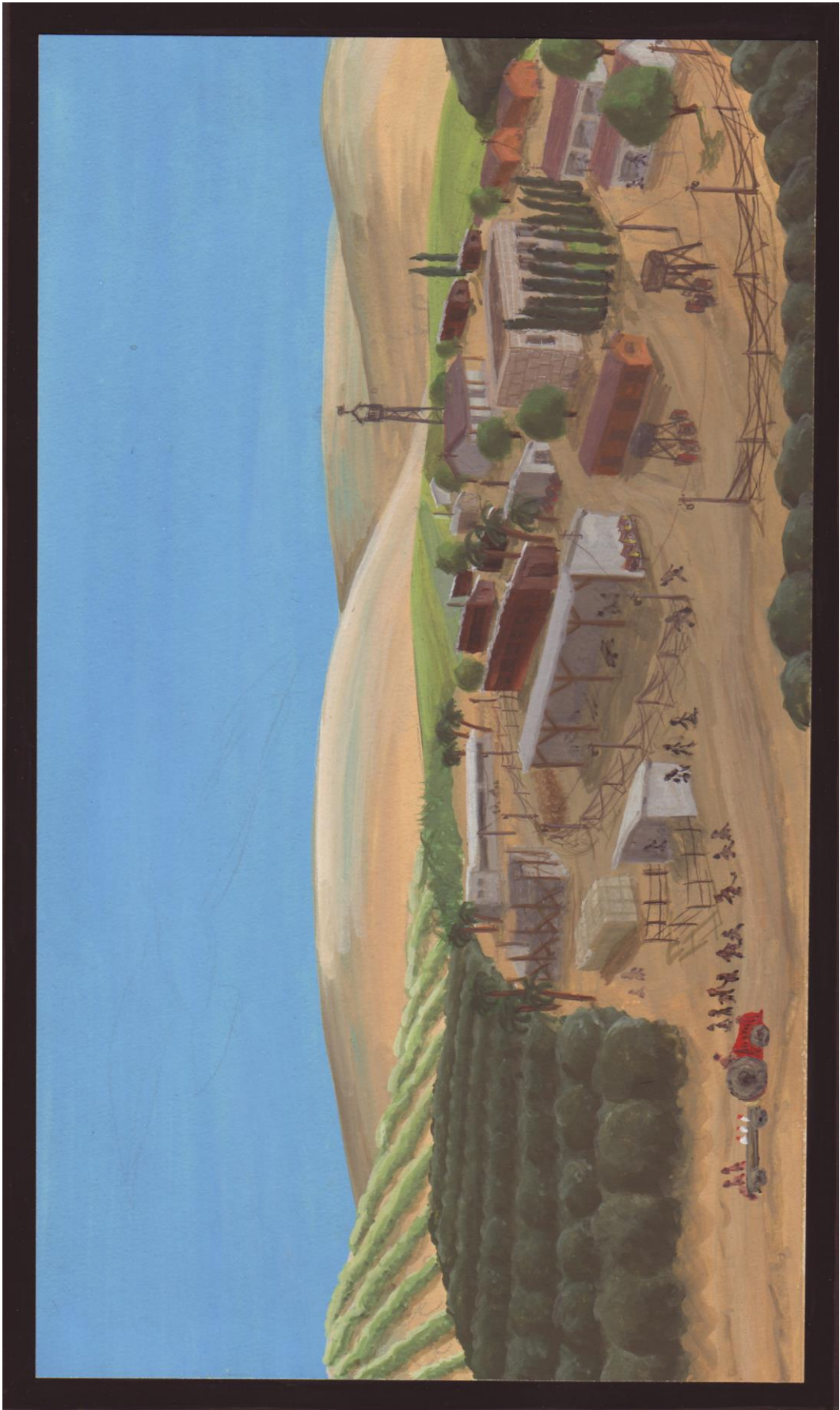
A few kibbutzniks arrived from Karmia with a tractor and a cart to fetch Ricky, Ticky, and Picky.

Women, men and children gathered at the dusty roadside to watch the return of the three lost chickens on their arrival at Karmia. Nobody had expected them to be alive. "How could they possibly have survived the dangers of the desert?"

Yet Ricky, Ticky and Picky were overjoyed. "Do you see **our** tower? Do you see **our** wooden houses? And over there, that is **our** henhouse!"

Their long journey had come to an end.

**"We are home again!"**



## Karmia and Yad Mordechai

Karmia is a kibbutz in Israel, south of Ashkelon, midway between Yad Mordechai and the Mediterranean, founded in May 1950 by two groups of Hashomer Hatzair. The first group had come from France and Tunisia after their Hakhshara (preparatory period ) at Beith Zera. The second group came from France, Morocco and Switzerland, via Kibbutz Evron.

The name refers to the Hebrew word 'kerem' (vineyard), or may be related to Adolphe Crémieux (1796 -1880), the prominent French politician and representative of the Consistoire Central Israélite in Paris.

Yad Mordechai is a neighbour Kibbutz, 3 km east of Karmia. Seven years older (founded 1943) it is more developed structurally and economically (with e.g. more henhouses, stone houses for its grownup inhabitants, well-tended gardens). It was named in honour of Mordechai Anjelewicz, leader of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in World War II. His giant monument atop a hill is a landmark. The ruins of a water tower next to it are a memento of the heroic fight against an Egyptian army unit in 1948, when the greater part of the Kibbutz was destroyed.





