

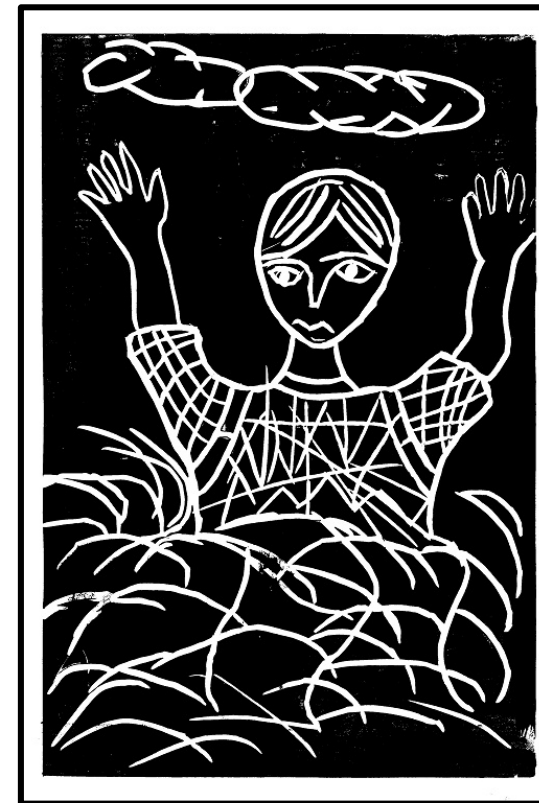
**AGIOS ANTONIOS PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
***“Spanos and the forty dragons”***



**“Spanos village”**



**“Dragons tower”**



**School Year 2015-2016**  
**Grade 6**

Once upon a time there was a man who could grow neither a moustache nor a beard, and his name was Spanos, meaning the Beardless One. Spanos however used to boast that there was no-one braver than him in the whole wide world. One day, as he was bragging as usual, his fellow villagers said to him:

"If you go and defeat the forty dragons who've cut off the water coming to our village, we'll finally believe that you're as brave as you say you are."

"Of course I'll go!" Spanos replied. "Me? Afraid of dragons?"

So he grabbed hold of some ashes and a half-dry piece of soft white cheese, and headed off in the direction of the dragons' lair. On the way there, he came across the leader of the dragons and greeted him as one does a king. The dragon however returned the greeting with:

"Wherever you try and hide, I'll eat you!"

To which Spanos replied:

"Let's make a deal. I'll challenge you with two bets, and if you manage them, then go ahead and eat me. Otherwise, you don't lay even a finger on me.

"Okay", said the dragon. "Tell me the bets".

"Can you sit on the ground", Spanos said, "and as you're sitting, give out a puff of smoke?"

"Let me try", the dragon responded, and he sat down with all his strength, so hard that his rump sank down deep into the earth, but no smoke came out. "Ok", he said to Spanos. "Let's see you try".

So Spanos sat down, and he was all but engulfed in a thick cloud of smoke. Of course, he'd put the ashes in his breeches, and as he went to sit down, he shook them a bit and then sat down forcefully, resulting in the ashes filling the air around him. The dragon however believed that Spanos had actually managed to produce smoke by sitting down, and said: "Ah, you're a strong one! Give me the other bet and we'll see."

"So", Spanos retorted. "Can you pick a stone from the ground, squeeze it, and wring out its juices?"

"Let's see", replied the dragon. So he picks up a stone, squeezes and squeezes and squeezes it until it crumples to dust in his fist, but no water has anywhere to be seen.

"You try", the dragon says to Spanos.



*"On the way there, he came across the leader of the dragons" 1.*

And Spanos grabs the half-dry piece of soft white cheese he brought with him, and with only one squeeze its juices began flowing through his fingers.

“See the water?” he asks the dragon. “Take a good look!”

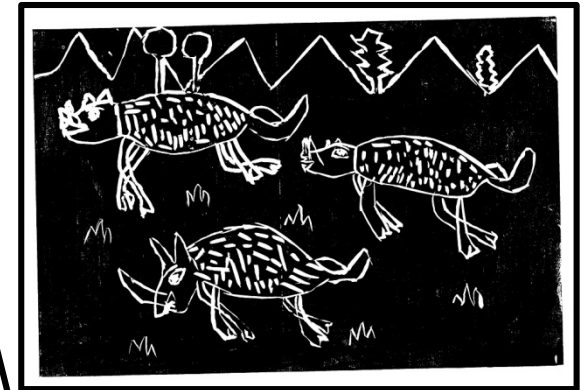
“I admit”, conceded the dragon, “that you are stronger than me. You have to come with me and live with me and my brothers, the other dragons, because you are even stronger than their leader”.

With that, both headed off towards the tower in which the forty dragons lived. Upon entering, the dragon leader called the other thirty-nine and told them that Spanos was stronger than either himself or any other dragon, and that he'd brought him to live with them.

On hearing this, the other dragons were taken over by fear, and not even a single day went by without them wondering what would happen if Spanos were ever to get angry and kill them all with one fell swoop. They were afraid, and they dared not to speak to him.

One day however they thought of making him do some work, to test his strength and bravery as it were, and they asked him, if he so wished, to go into the woods and kill a boar and bring it back so that they all could feast on its meat. Their thinking of course, was that if Spanos wasn't truly strong and brave, the boar would kill him on the spot.

On hearing their wish, Spanos got the shivers, but what could he do; He headed off towards the forest. Walking in the woods, he sees a pack of wild boars coming straight at him.



*“Walking in the woods, he sees a pack of wild boars”* 2.

Part from Finland

Spanos was met by a herd of wild boars. He climbed a tree as fast as he could. But before he did so, he left the pieces of moldy cheese he had in his pocket under the tree. Only the leader of the herd stopped to sniff the pieces of cheese, Spanos jumped on his back. But one dragon flew high in the air and had followed Spanos in order to see how he managed. Spanos rode the wild boar straight into a rock after which boar lost consciousness.







From a bush Spanos had found a dragon's tooth. Now he took it out and drove it straight into the boar's heart. All along the dragon sat unnoticed in a tree. He wondered how Spanos managed to kill the boar. Spanos looked up and discovered the dragon. "Look, I sure know how to kill a wild boar!," he boasted proudly. The dragon had called his whole flock along. They had noticed Spanos killed the wild boar with a dragon's tooth, not by his great strength. So, they surrounded him menacingly.



Spanos was so scared that suddenly his beard started growing out of his fear. The dragons thought Spanos had a beard because he had been so brave and wise so they shouldered him. Although Spanos guessed the dragons were going to lock him in the tower.

By the time they got to the tower Spanos was so frightened that his beard had already been two metres long. The dragons put him down and started exulting and celebrating. Spanos didn't understand anything.

"Why are you so happy?" he asked them. "What are you celebrating?" "You" they answered "because you were so brave even you have got a long beard." "Really?" Spanos wondered then he walked tall.

"We have got only one question. Why couldn't you kill the wild boar only with your strength? Why did you use a dragon's tooth?"

Spanos was thinking over the right answer for a while then he said:

"Because I belong to you. This tooth is the symbol of our strength."

The dragons liked his reply so much that they decided to crown him to be their king.

During the crowing ceremony the oldest dragon asked the others:

"Who is opposed Spanos to be our king?"

"Me" shouted the dragon leader 'I suppose he must manage one last bet. If he can do it we can crown him.

The other thirty-nine dragons accepted his suggestion and tried to find out what Spanos had to do to be their king. Finally they made their decision.

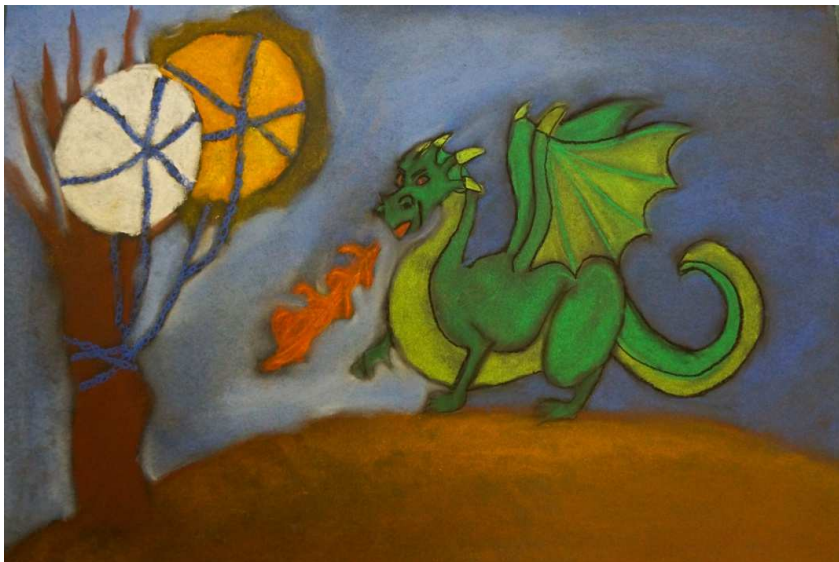
"You must take the Sun and the Moon captive by the end of the day."

"Okay, said Spanos, however, he didn't know how to do it, "I'll catch them." said full of confidence.

He was sure this needed careful consideration. He had to get a long rope. Finally he found out how to make it. He cut his beard and twisted a long rope. He was so skillful that he took the sun and the Moon captive and fastened them to a big tree.



The dragon king was very angry but he couldn't do anything. He had to accept Spanos to be the following king. Spanos didn't have a beard again, however, he was really glad to manage the new bet.





Part from Holland.

Meanwhile, in the village, the villagers wonder what could have happened to Spanos.

They've heard nothing from him, so they assume he didn't defeat the 40 dragons yet!

And they still can't reach the water supply. They are very thirsty, but still they have to search for water.

The villagers really would like to know why the dragons will not let them get to the water supply.

Besides, they don't understand why it is so dark and they can't see the sun and the moon anymore....

The villagers decide to meet in the village social center.

The mayor opens the meeting. He says: "Dear villagers, we really have to find a solution for our water-problem. We will soon starve from thirst. And there is no word yet from Spanos. Who's got any ideas? What are we supposed to do now?"



Everyone is looking at each other...well, what can we do? Everyone is silent...

But then, all of a sudden, two children rise from their chairs. They are twins: a girl called Sammie and a boy called Evert. Their father took them with him to the meeting.

"We were playing in the woods yesterday" Sammie says. "And then we thought about the dragons. Could be that they are hungry.....and we could bring them some food."

And Evert says: "And then maybe they will talk to us and become our friends!"

Everyone starts talking to each other: Become friends with the dragons? Instead of defeating them? And what kind of food do dragons like? "Meat! Meat!" some villagers shout.

So the villagers decide to prepare sausages, hotdogs and juicy steaks.

But who's got the courage to bring the food to the dragons?

"We can go, we are brave and can do this!" the twins shout.

But of course their father will go with them.

So the three of them leave for the dragon tower the next morning, with all the meat they can carry.



But arriving in the woods around the tower they suddenly hear someone shout: "Help me, help me!" And they spot a little dragon that has fallen into the a lake and apparently can't swim!

Quickly Sammie and Evert throw him a rope and shout: "Grab the rope little dragon, we'll pull you out!" When the little dragon is out of the water, they hear from him that Spanos is King of the Dragons now.



The little dragon shows them the way to the dragon tower. Arriving there, the little dragon calls out for his dragon-dad and dragon-mum.

He tells them that he is saved by these villagers, that they carry lots of nice juicy meat and that they'd like to talk to the dragons.

When Spanos hears the commotion he quickly steps outside. The twins and their father explain that they would like to talk to the dragons to try and find a solution for the water problem.

When the dragons see all the meat they brought with them, they agree to talk to the twins and their father. And the dragons explain that they've cut off the water supply, because this way a lake developed in their woods and they really love

to look into the water and see their own reflection. The twins have an quick word with each other.

"Oh, but we can solve this problem!" they say, relieved. "We can give you mirrors to see your own reflection, won't we dad?" "Of course, no problem" their father replies. "And you dragons can restore the streaming of the water to our village!" And all the dragons, Spanos, the twins and their father shout for joy.



And so this was done, but...the problem with the moon and the sun wasn't solved yet. And what about Spanos, will he still be King of the dragons?



## Part from Spain

The twins, their father, people from the village and the dragons are very worried about the moon and the sun. All together they go to look for Spanos to release them. It is very difficult because of the lack of light, so they use the dragons' fire to help them.

Eventually they find Spanos, but he is very angry because the dragons, and the villagers are friends now. He says 'you have betrayed me, so he runs away and hides the moon and the sun far away



They spend 7 days and 7 nights looking for them, but Spanos has hidden them in a cave on the top of the highest mountain in the country. A green big strong ugly ogre takes care of them because Spanos gives him his favourite food: baby dragon's teeth.

Spanos says 'take care of the moon and sun and I will give you your food every day' and the ogre says 'baby dragon's teeth, Mmmm delicious'

Spanos captures the only baby dragon in the country and he gives the ogre a tooth every day. A baby dragon has only 50 teeth, so after 50 days, the baby dragon loses all their teeth and he is adult. Now the ogre is very angry with Spanos and he releases only the moon.



By then Spanos, the villagers and the dragons are very weak because they need the light of the sun. Then Spanos also need the Sun, so he goes to look for the people and the dragons, then he says 'we have a big problem, I am very sorry but we have to release the sun' 'The strongest ogre in the country has the sun in the cave which is on the top the mountain' 'he is very angry because he needs baby dragon's teeth and there are no baby dragons' ' the ogre says that if he hasn't some teeth in three days he will put out the sun for ever'



They have a big problem, they need the sun, they don't have baby dragon's teeth and the ogre is the strongest in the world. Will Spanos, the villagers and the dragons united to solve the problem? What will happen if they don't release the sun?

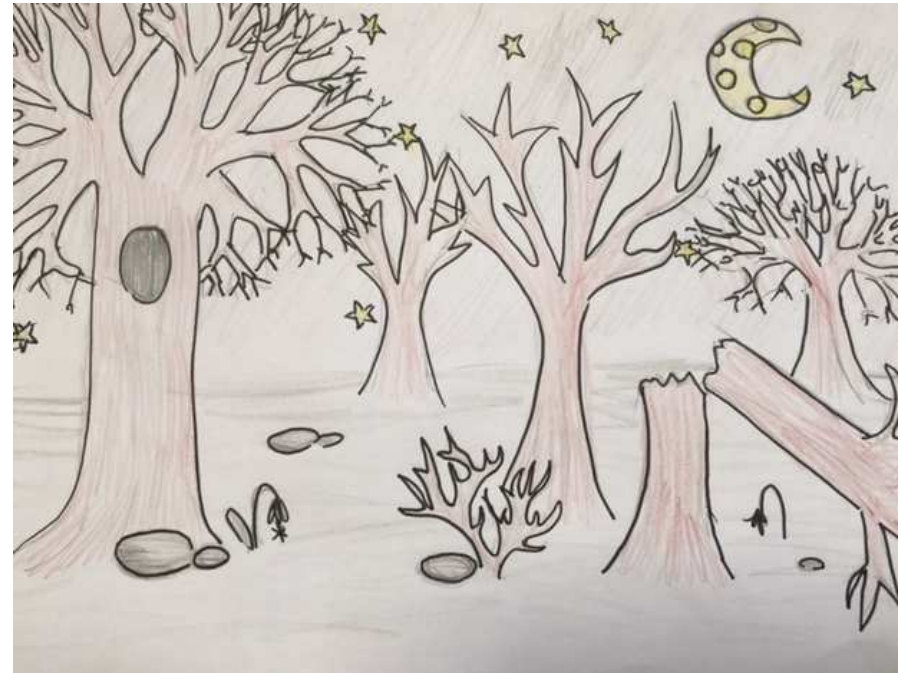


*Part from Denmark*

The lack of sunlight quickly made both dragons, villagers and Spanos very weak. They had to come up with a good plan how to beat the ogre and release the sun.



The forest and all the plants in the fields and all the flowers were dead. There was water now, but without the sun, nothing could live.





Suddenly the little dragon, which the twins had saved from drowning, said: "What if we made a fake baby-dragon-tooth with poison in it? Then the ogre will die when he eats it."

"What a great idea!" Spanos shouted out, "but how do we get some poison?"

There was silent for a while, then the old dragonleader said: "What if we contacted our old friends, the snakes?"

"And what if we ask the stars and the moon too light up the sky to find the snakes?" another dragon suggested.

Then Spanos said: "I could find the snakes. It's my fault that this happened. Hopefully I can get some poison from the snakes."

All the dragons and villagers thought that it was a good idea.

Then the twins and their dad said: "We could made the fake tooth while you get the poison."

Spanos went to the snakes. The moon and the stars lit up the way to the cave where the snakes lived.

When he went into the cave, suddenly a big snake came out and crawled around his neck. The snake hissed to Spanos: "What are you doing here?" Spanos said: "I come with greetings from the dragons. We desperately need your help. A big ogre has hidden the sun in his cave and we need some poison to kill him." "What is in it for us?" said the big snake. "What do you want in return of the poison?" Spanos asked. "I want some big fat rats." "It's a deal!" Spanos said.

Then Spanos took a little bottle and all the snakes came out and delivered the poison.



Then Spanos picked up the bottle went home to the dragons and the villagers.

Meanwhile the twins and there dad had made the fake dragon-tooth out of clay. When Spanos arrived he poured the poison into the fake tooth.

In the darkness he tiptoed to the ogre`s cave and placed the tooth outside the cave.

When the ogre woke up he immediately saw the tooth and swallowed it whole. In a second he was dead.



Spanos ran to the cave and released the sun. It went to the sky and shined all over the earth.

As soon as the sun went to the sky all the villagers and dragons shouted with joy. They celebrated for seven days and nights. There was water and food for everyone. All the flowers and trees went back to live and everybody was happy.

From that day on villagers and dragons lived side by side in peace and harmony. When the twins grew up they became leaders for both man and dragons and they all lived happily ever after.

