

CHAPTER IX – COMANI – A FRIEND IN PROBOPOLO

Gandra, the real king, returned to the Royal Ring in order to undo the terrible orders and decrees that Mad-ellia had issued in his place, and to bring back his brothers and sisters who had been exiled to the Forbidden Island.

Meanwhile Arlequina, Laio, Maxim and Fritz jumped into the mirror and came straight to the opposite world to which they lived, the world called Probopolo.



All of a sudden, they found themselves inside a large old oak tree standing in the middle of a large garden surrounded by a very tall wall.

There was also a huge house with a terrace overlooking the garden, which was Mad-ellia's home in Probopolo.

When crossing the border into the world of Probopolo, they all immediately turned into dogs of the type found in Probopolo. They began to walk on all fours, but could still communicate with each other in their own canine language.

Arlequina signaled them not to make any noise and called her friends to follow her to the other side of the garden, the other end of the property, and showed them a huge passage that was beneath the wall, giving access to the outside.

One after another, they crossed the passage under the wall and went to the other side where there were no buildings, just a vacant lot, an open area with many large trees and other plants nearby. Then they followed Arlequina toward the house of her friend in Probopolo, whose name was Comani.

At that moment as the four friends ran from the empty lot and arrived at the sidewalk, Comani, Mad-ellia's neighbor, was just arriving home and saw the four visitors.

She was very surprised to see four huge great danes running down the sidewalk by themselves, but soon realized Arlequina among them. She quickly got off the car and ran after them, calling Arlequina and telling her to stop.

Arlequina and the others ran back to the empty lot, to the place where the passage was, giving access to Mad-ellia's property. Comani went straight after them into the passage, coming to the other side where they were. All four started barking, trying to get her attention and calling Comani to see what was inside the big oak tree.

Once Comani approached the four friends, she saw them enter the trunk of the old oak tree. Then she saw the magic mirror underneath the leaves and plants that covered the entrance of the large tree trunk and she entered the passage to see it up closer... What a surprise! Comani saw all four dogs jumping into the mirror, one after another, and curious and venturous as she was, she jumped right into it after them.

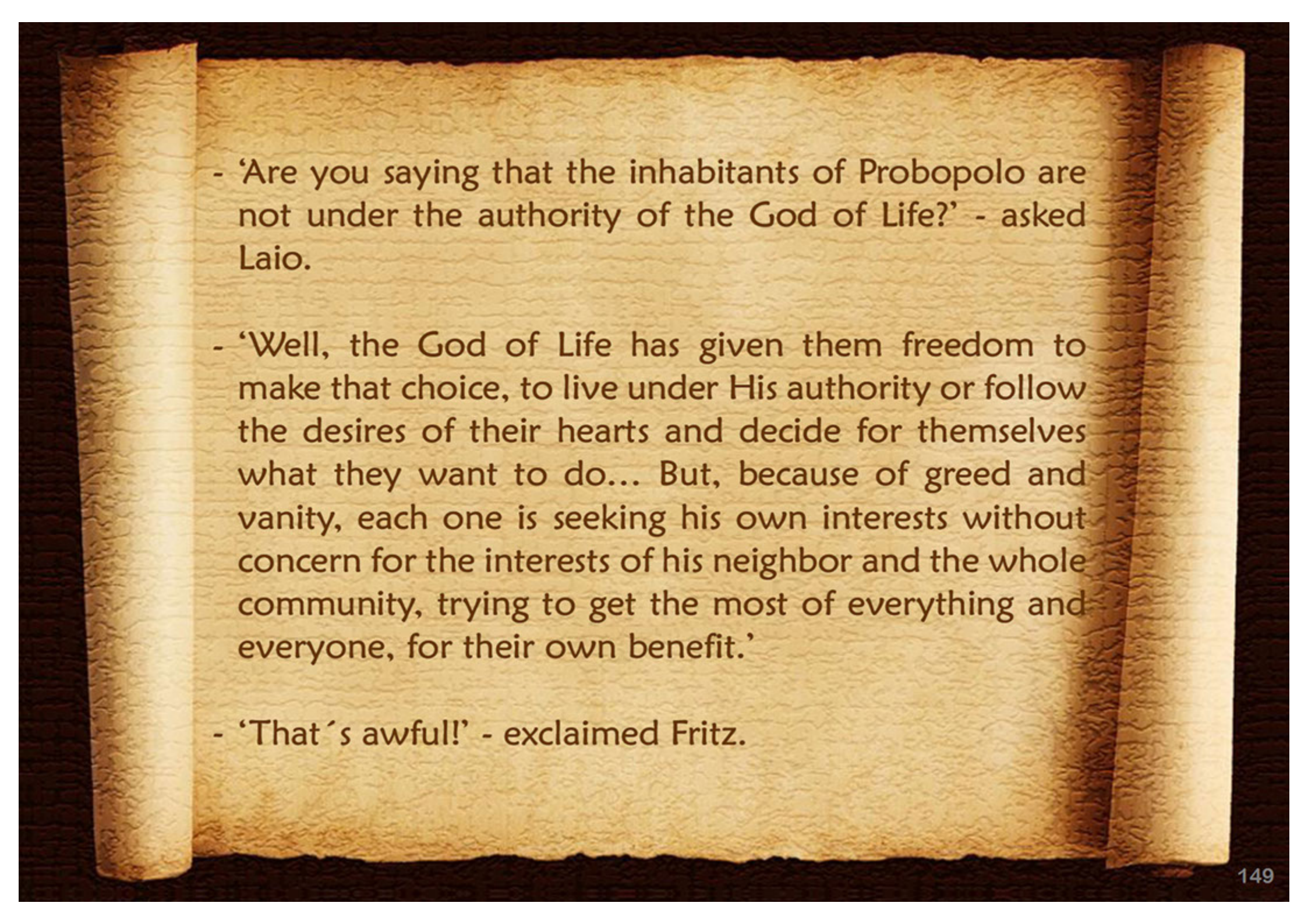
From one moment to the other, Comani found herself in Doggerland with Arlequina and her friends. She was amazed to see them standing on their hind legs, dressed and looking at her. But when Arlequina began to speak, Comani almost fainted from excitement! What an experience!

Arlequina gently told her not to be afraid and explained to Comani that they were in Doggerland, the land of the Great Danes!

Then she introduced her friends to Comani and told her about the tragedy that had affected Doggerland since Mad-ellia invaded their world and changed the laws that were there.

- 'Comani, Arlequina told us that the world of yours, Probopolo, is cursed...why is that?' – asked Maxim.

- 'Yes, unfortunately that is true... our world is cursed... The inhabitants of our world are destroying their own environment! They also have created nuclear, biologic and chemical weapons, capable of destroying and killing every living creature in Probopolo.'
- 'But this is horrible, why would they do such a thing to themselves?' – asked Fritz.
- 'Well, let me explain to you in an easy way... In Probopolo there is something called free will, this means that each one is free to decide on his own life, disregarding the authority of him who created all things. They decide what is right and wrong and so, each one follow the wishes of their own hearts, not the desires of His heart, the one who created them and everything else.'

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- 'Are you saying that the inhabitants of Probopolo are not under the authority of the God of Life?' - asked Laio.
 - 'Well, the God of Life has given them freedom to make that choice, to live under His authority or follow the desires of their hearts and decide for themselves what they want to do... But, because of greed and vanity, each one is seeking his own interests without concern for the interests of his neighbor and the whole community, trying to get the most of everything and everyone, for their own benefit.'
 - 'That 's awful!' - exclaimed Fritz.

- 'This is the reason why the world of Probopolo is under a curse, a world that turned its back on its creator, a world opposed to the God of Life!' – concluded Comani.
- 'Oh, this is so very sad!' – said Maxim, with a heavy heart. Then Comani added:
- 'But the God of Life, in his great kindness and love, is still watching over them, helping them to find a way out of this terrible death sentence that mankind has spoken out against itself. He has established a way for those who want to reconcile with him and want again to submit to His authority. It is called the Way of Truth!'

- 'Here in Doggerland we also have a road called the Way of Truth! This path leads to the Temple of Life, the Temple of the God of Life!' – exclaimed Laio.
- 'Unfortunately, the majority has ignored it. They want to be god themselves; they want to decide about everything, even over life and death!' – said Comani.
- 'Oh, but that's too bad!' – said Fritz. And he proceeded:
- 'We need to find a way to stop this curse from spreading and reaching Doggerland. We must keep Mad-ellia away from us and prevent her from returning here!'

- 'Well, there are many "Mad-ellia's" in Probopolo, Fritz'
- said Comani, and continued:

- 'There is only one way to prevent them from doing here what they are doing in my world. We need to destroy the passage that links our worlds; we need to destroy the magic mirror!'

- 'But Comani, then you will never come to visit us again, here in Doggerland.' – answered Maxim.

- 'Yes, I know...' – said Comani - 'but this is the only way to preserve your world, the world of Doggerland!'

Then everyone decided that this would be the only right thing to do. Everyone said good bye and Comani returned to Probopolo. Then, together Maxim, Fritz, Laio and Arlequina tried to destroy the mirror, throwing huge stones on it. But something extraordinary happened. They could not destroy it, because all they threw at the mirror would go through it to Probopolo!

So, everyone was very sad because they could not destroy the cursed mirror.