



# My Childhood in Fifty Years' Time

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this special edition possible:

Aysha Humaid Al Khayal - 9 years

Saud Al Kaabi - 10 years

Rayman Abdullah - 12 years old

Kimberly Smilie De Costa - 11 years

Kondenka Biswas - 13 years

Anne Maria Petros - 16 years

Ratna Ramesh Kumar - 13 years

Tabarkallah Rida Abdul Malik - 13 years

Tasnim Rida Abdul Malik - 12 years

Mahalakshmi Dev - 13 years

Tala Hikmat Mahmoud - 13 years

Kinzi Mohammad Ali Salah - 15 years





In our opinion, it is critical that we pay attention to young Arab writers, so we are part of an effort to assist in the development of the younger generation's skills.

My Childhood in Fifty Years' Time is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Community Development and the Sharjah Child Friendly Office, a subsidiary of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

The book is the result of creative training workshops about children's literature and its many specialities that were organised for children and young adults.



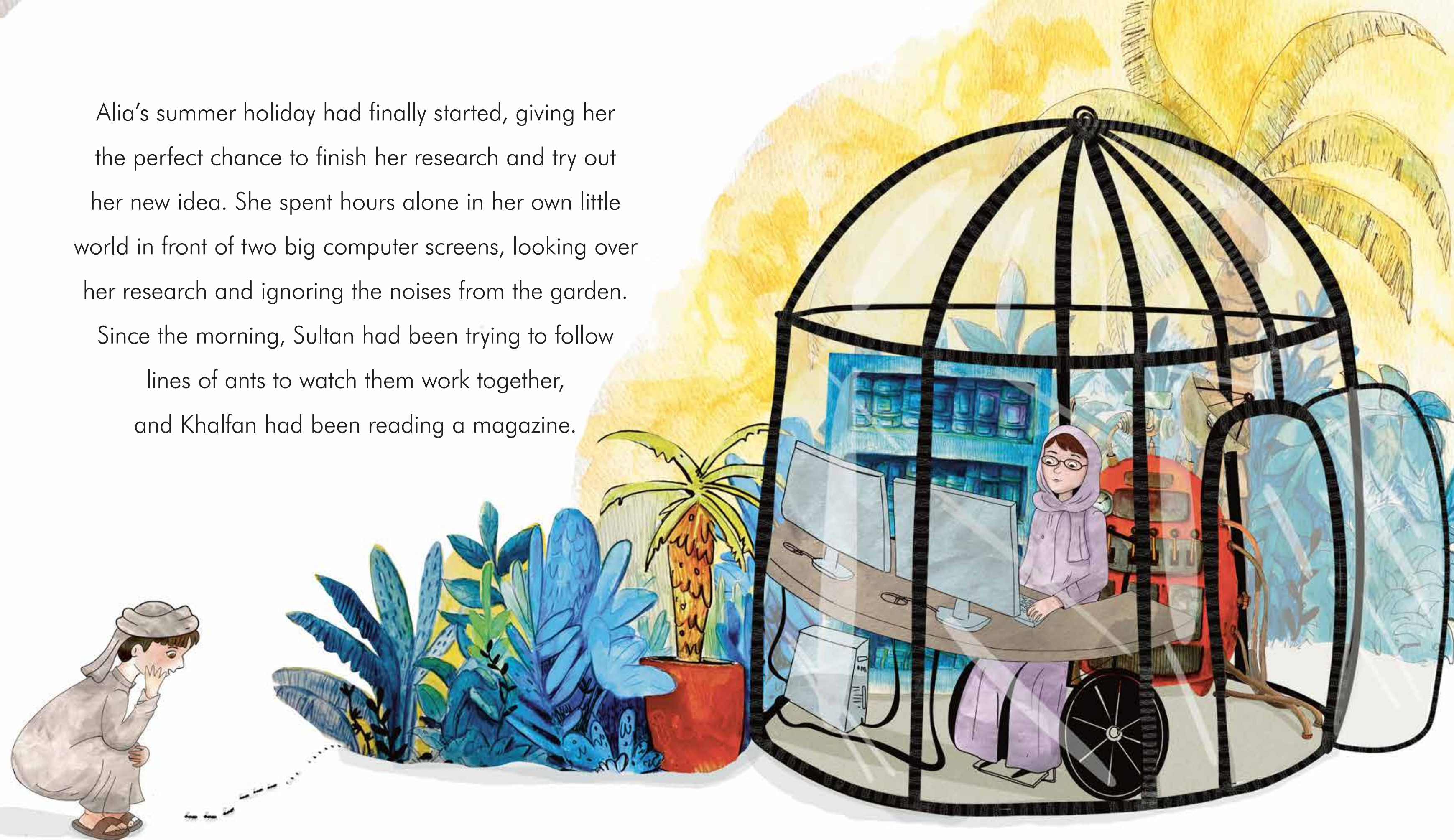
Based on the world and thoughts of children, this book was published as a result of significant literary and education-related efforts in the Arab world. In the story, children predict what the United Arab Emirates will look like in the future as a leading technologically-advanced society.





Alia's summer holiday had finally started, giving her the perfect chance to finish her research and try out her new idea. She spent hours alone in her own little world in front of two big computer screens, looking over her research and ignoring the noises from the garden.

Since the morning, Sultan had been trying to follow lines of ants to watch them work together, and Khalfan had been reading a magazine.







Alia hadn't told her two brothers about her invention because she wanted them to be surprised when she told them what it was for.

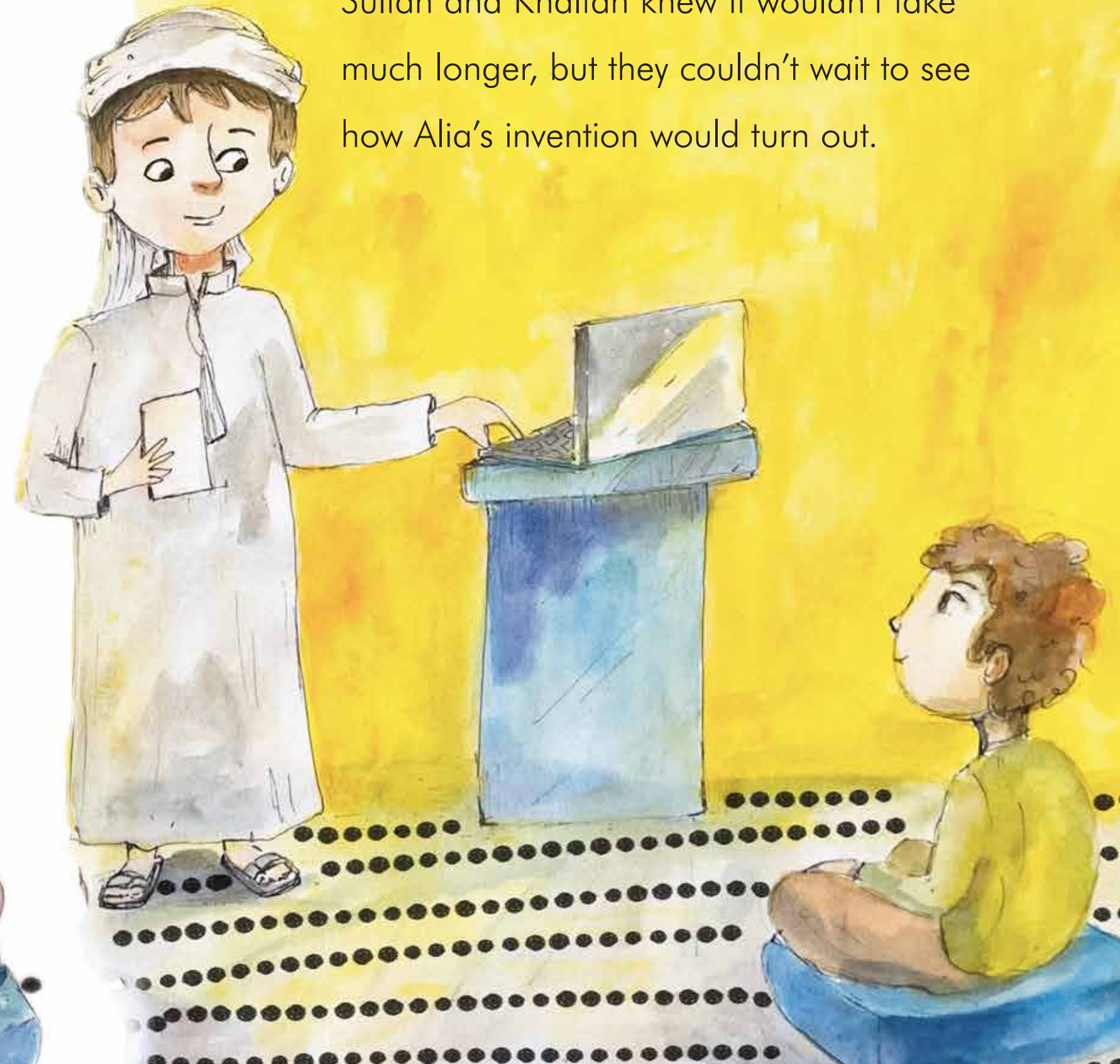
She said to herself, "Just a few simple steps and it'll be finished."



Alia, Sultan and Khalfan had taken part in the Future Leader programme, which embraced the fact that the United Arab Emirates is a place where people of many different nationalities, language, and cultures live and work together peacefully. The programme had helped the three siblings realise that they were creative and that they had Plenty of ideas about ways to make the world a better place.



Sultan and Khalfan knew it wouldn't take much longer, but they couldn't wait to see how Alia's invention would turn out.





Alia had been interested in science since she was a child. She spent most of her free time researching technological inventions, learning computer programmes and studying the properties of natural materials. She hadn't even let a car accident prevent her from doing the things she enjoyed. Her brothers were impressed by her determination and, because they lived in a country where even the sky didn't seem too far away, their dreams were bound to come true soon!

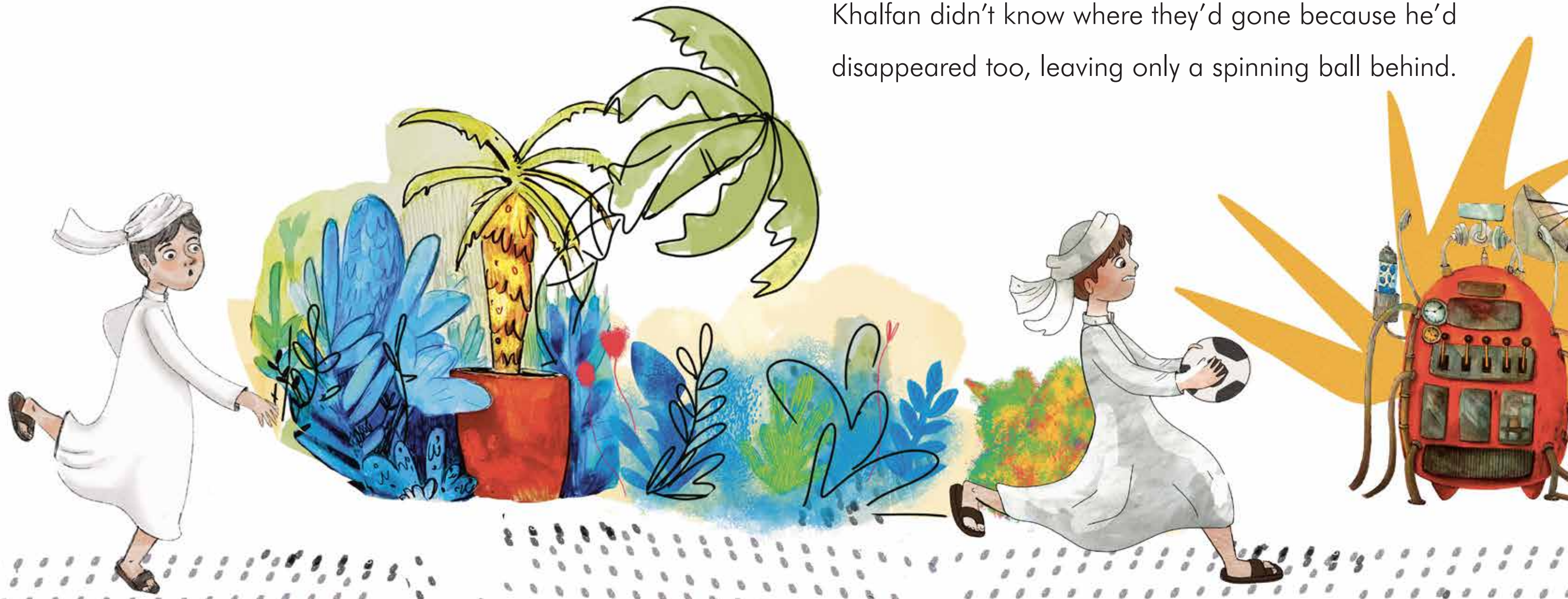




The doorbell rang, which meant that the new ball Sultan had ordered online had arrived. He played with it in the garden while Alia worked on something important. Sultan kicked the ball and Khalfan tried to catch it. When they heard a loud noise from the little glass cabin, they ran to check on their sister.

When they arrived, Alia was trying to connect a pipe to the computer. When she noticed them, she shouted, “Go away!”

But it was too late. There was a flash of what looked like lightning, and Alia and Sultan disappeared. Khalfan didn’t know where they’d gone because he’d disappeared too, leaving only a spinning ball behind.





Alia struggled to open her eyes and, as her vision slowly returned, she realised she had a slight headache.

She looked around and noticed that the house was very different. There weren't many things in it, and there was a lot of empty space. She was confused and had no idea what had happened to her or her brothers.

She heard footsteps coming from the next room. A door opened and she saw a woman. "Who are you?" the woman asked, surprised.







Alia couldn't think of anything to say, so they just stared at each other in awe, both feeling as if they'd known the other person for a very long time.

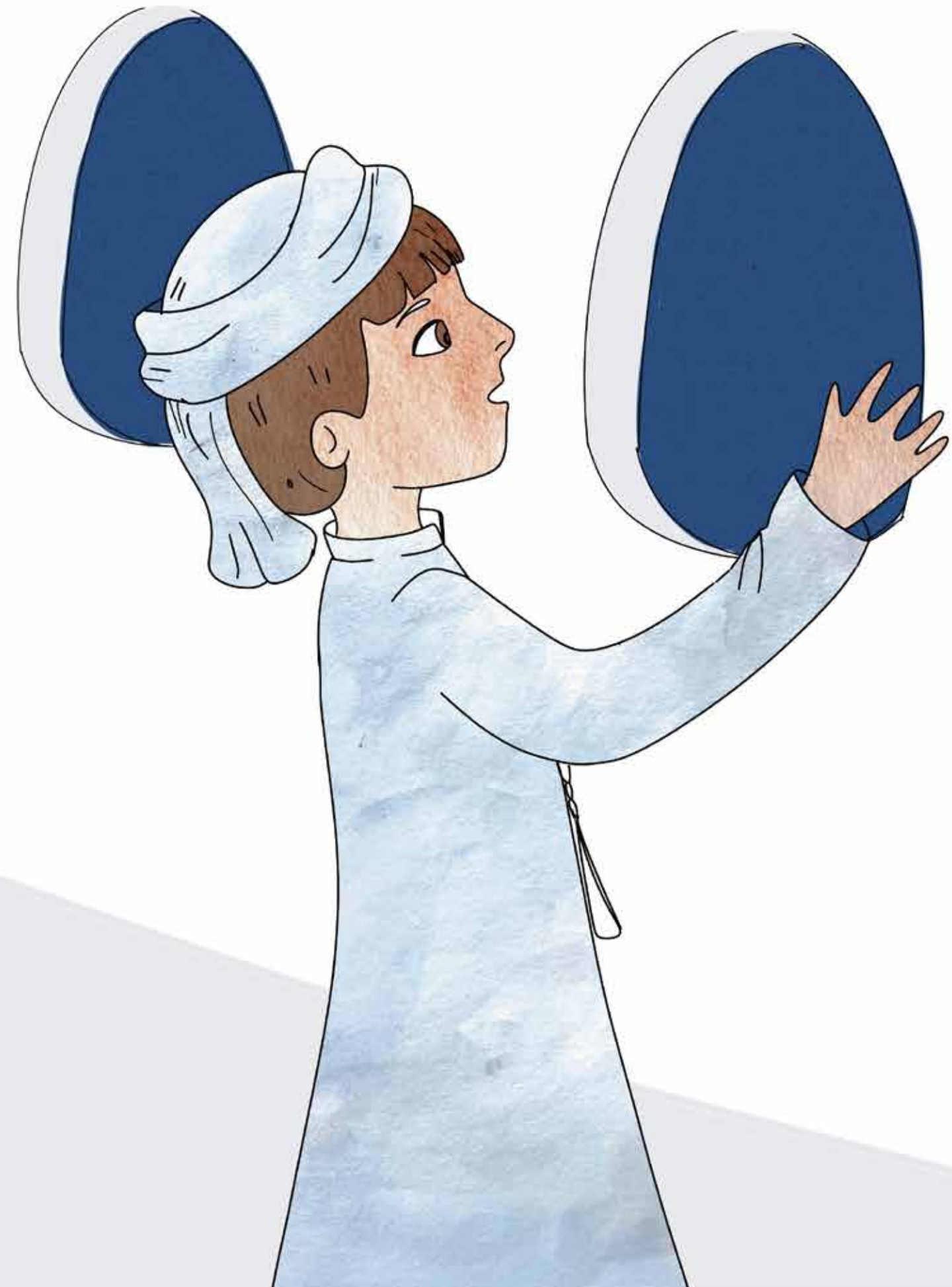
"I was..., and..., and it's been about fifty years since then," the woman said as she walked right up to Alia's wheelchair

and touched the wheels. Alia looked at her for a long time before saying, "We're alike in so many ways!

You are... I am you!"

The woman's cheeks reddened as she replied, "Me?...You!"



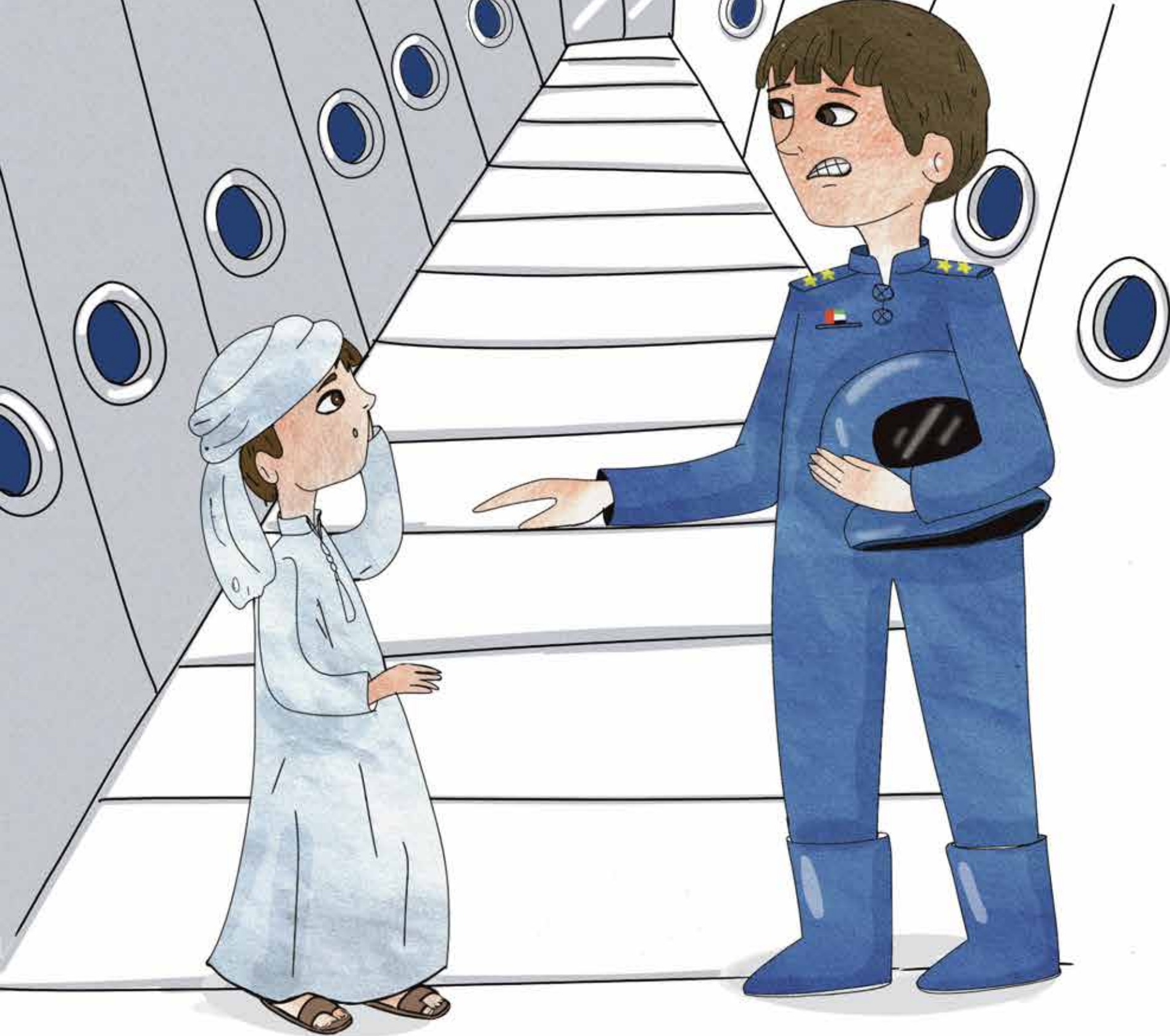


Khalfan didn't know what was going on.

He was travelling in a huge vehicle that was shaking under his feet. When he looked out the small windows, he was surprised to see darkness with a bright yellow light and bright spots that looked like stars.

"Does light mix with darkness?" he wondered.





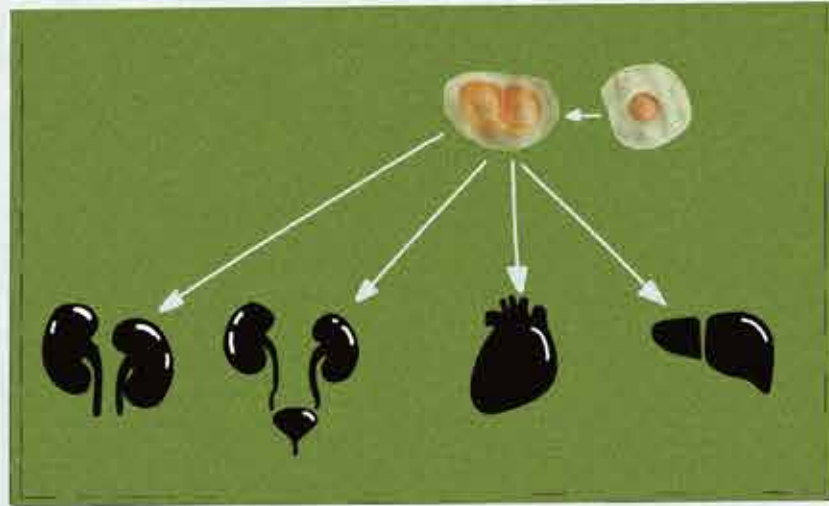
He heard a man's voice behind him saying,  
"What are you doing here?"

After a short pause, Khalfan asked, "Where are we?"

The man looked at Khalfan's face carefully, before  
replying, "We are in AE971; it's a spaceship."

Then he asked, "How did you get here? You look...  
so... familiar. Do I know you?"





Alia hugged the woman because she was so happy to see herself walking again, saying, “Did you use a magic spell?”

The woman smiled and replied, “You and I worked hard to develop stem cell applications. Today, this advanced technology is credited with helping many People of Determination (people with disabilities) who need transplants or replacement body parts.”



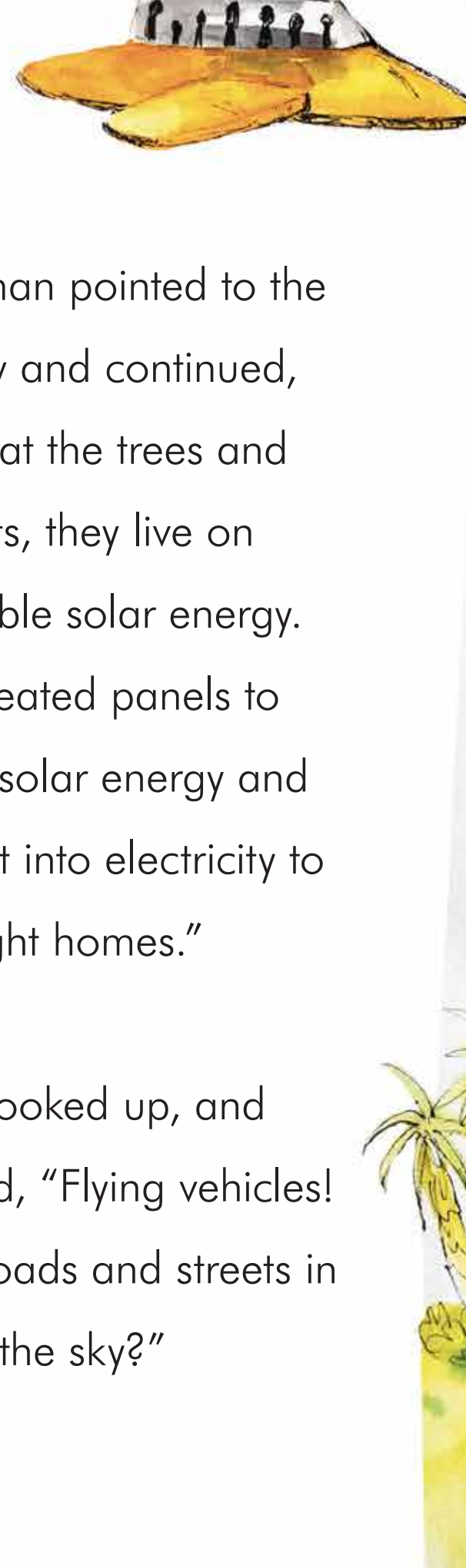




The woman pointed to the window and continued, "Look at the trees and plants, they live on renewable solar energy.

We created panels to absorb solar energy and convert it into electricity to light homes."

Alia looked up, and exclaimed, "Flying vehicles! Are the roads and streets in the sky?"

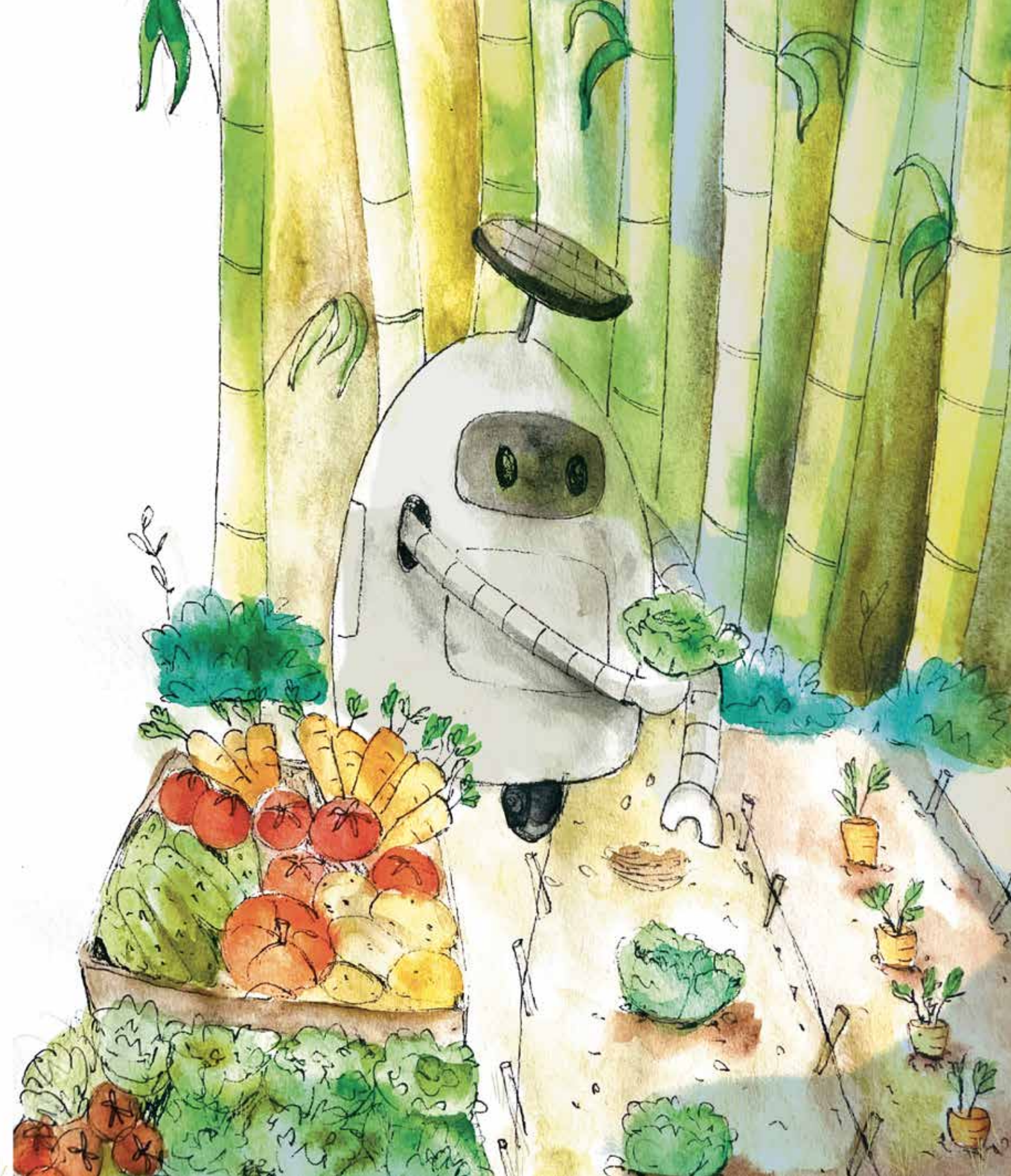




"A lot has changed," the woman explained.

"We eat organic food that we grow ourselves;  
more things are now possible, thanks to artificial intelligence."

Alia was paying close attention because the things she had  
predicted had happened, allowing the world to breathe and  
making it a good place to live once again.





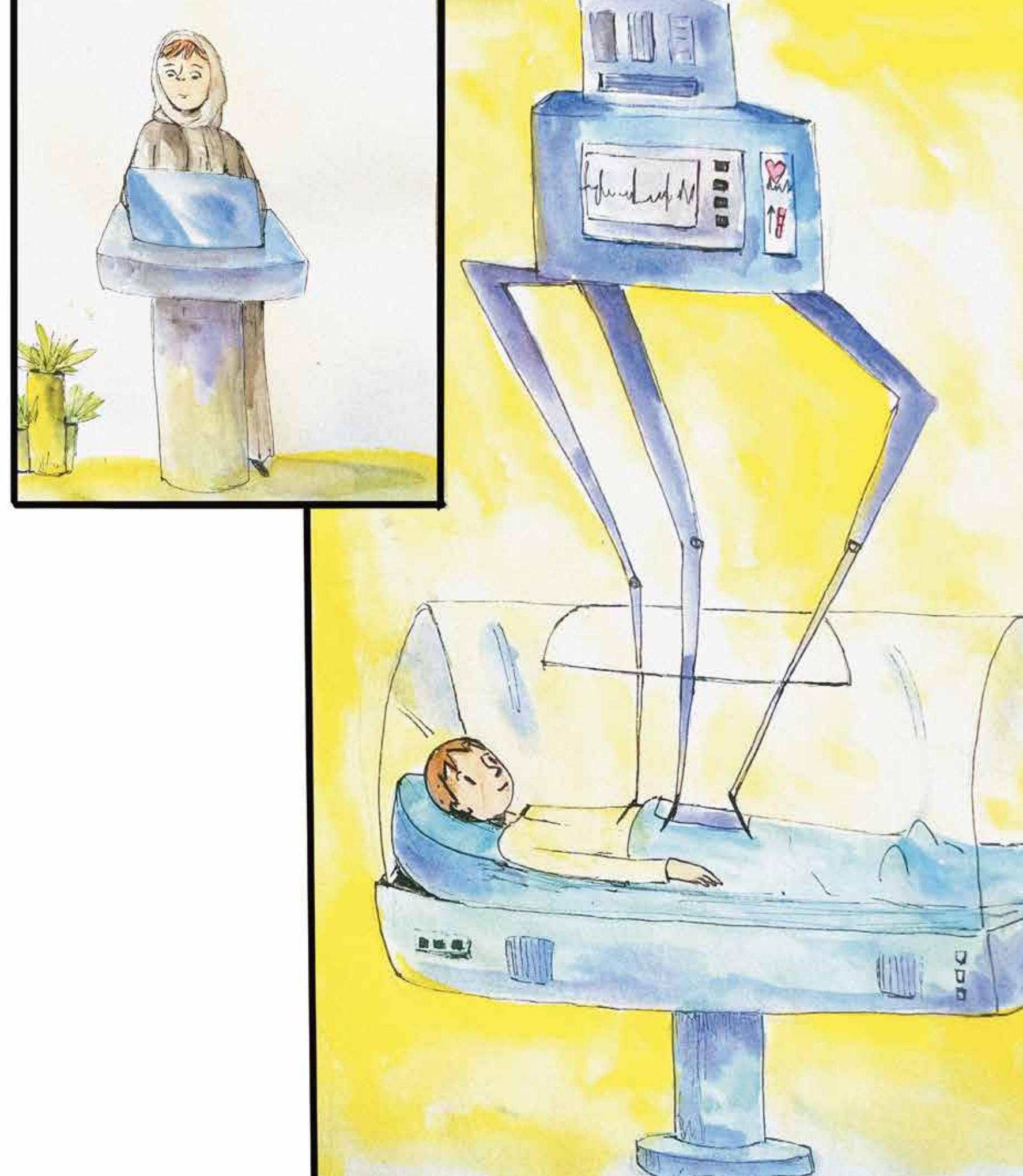
The woman talked about the latest developments in medicine, like how genetic engineering could be used to predict chronic diseases.

Hospitals existed only to care for people.

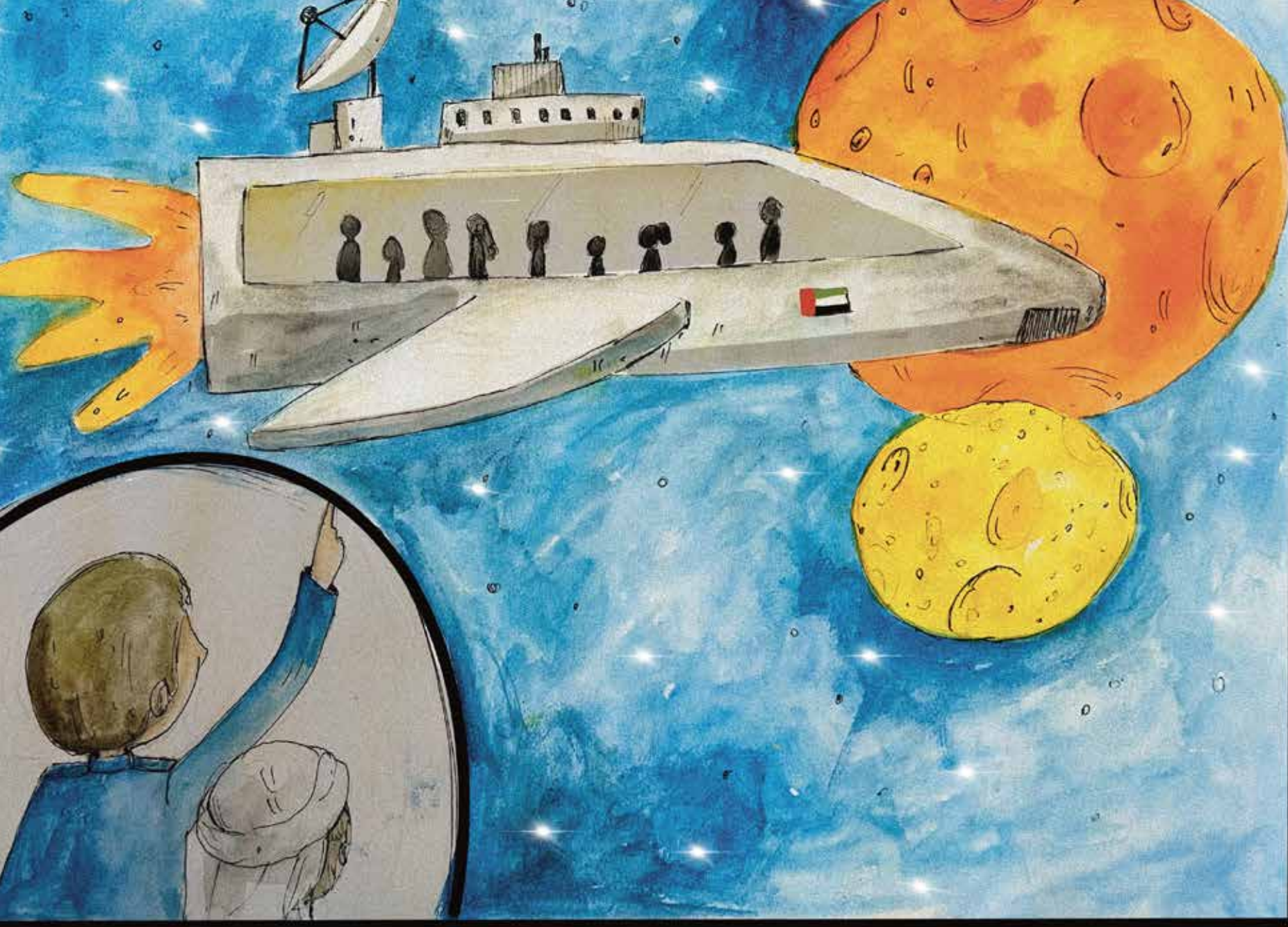
She explained that it had also become easier to help people in emergencies. Even the most complicated surgeries could be performed remotely by robots, with a very low error rate.

“So I’ve become a scientist!” Alia said to herself.

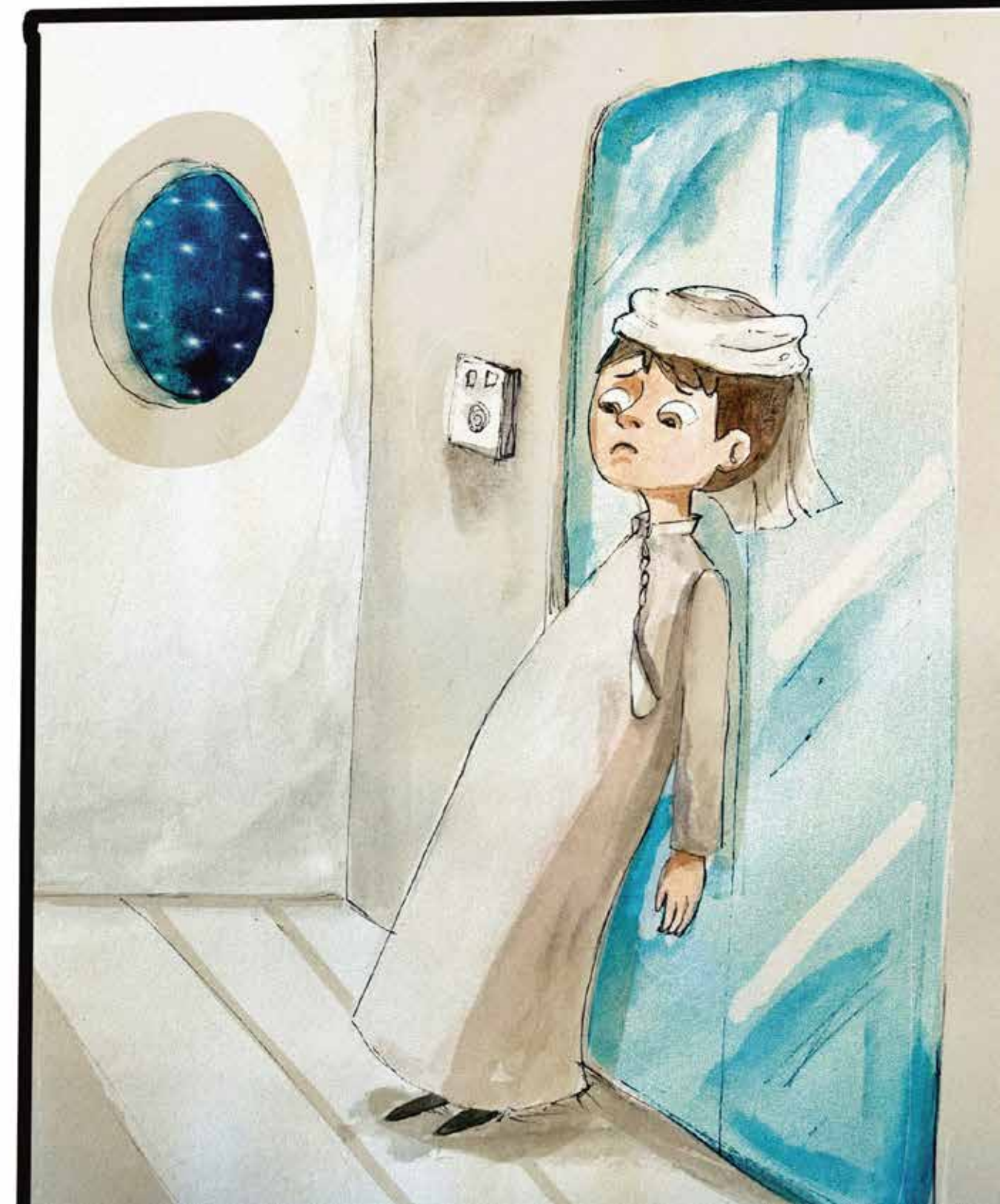
“We really appreciate your innovations,” the woman said, winking.







Khalfan wondered what had happened to Alia and Sultan. When he realised he was on a unique spaceship designed to improve communication between the people on Earth and the inhabitants of other planets, he wished he could share his joy with his brother and sister.







“Khalfan, do you remember the Future Leader programme?” the man asked with a smile.

He took Khalfan on a tour of the planets and told him that the UAE had become a leader in space and that it was one of the many countries with a fleet of space vehicles. He explained that some of the space vehicles could land on the surface of Mars, and others could land on the moon.

Khalfan felt very proud of his country and the fact that it was known for its vision and its ability to adapt and improve.



While Khalfan and Alia got to know their future selves, they both realised the importance of the things they would accomplish for their homeland in the future.



Sultan was in a tough spot. Like the others, the time machine had sent him to a different time period, but he was stuck in a big place flooded with light. He asked a quiet, unblinking girl who was around his age about his brother and sister. She said that they were fine and that she could take him to them.

As the girl was about to leave, Sultan stopped her, saying, "Wait!" She said, "Don't worry, just follow me."

As they walked, a small robot said, "Welcome to the year 2071."



“Oh my God, have we travelled through time?”

Sultan exclaimed.

He was astonished. He took a deep breath and tried to figure out what was going on.



When his sister’s machine had exploded, it must have sent Khalfan and Alia to a different place and time, and they must be in the future. He waited a moment before asking,

“Who runs this place?”

The girl replied, “Professor Sultan. I’ll take you to him.”

Paying no attention to the look of surprise on Sultan’s face, she introduced herself, explaining that she was an advanced robot and that she could feel and interact with people very well.

“That’s very clearrrrr,” Sultan stuttered.

She said, “Everyone here knows you. You’re the boy who came up with a new educational theory.”

Sultan’s eyes grew wide with astonishment, but he didn’t say a word!





She led him into the next room and pointed to a chart on the office wall, saying, "After you did so well in the Future Leader programme, you presented a plan for modern education based on skills with no exams.

A lot of young people collaborated with you, which gave you the chance to explore and develop in a peaceful and tolerant environment."

"There are no exams!" Sultan exclaimed delightedly.



The robot girl smiled, and continued to describe the way in which teachers discovered children's talents based on a number of tests, and then assigned the children to a specially designed programme with special supervision.

"Your theory changed the world and has made the UAE one of the most developed countries globally in terms of scientific research and education," she explained



"Why isn't Khalfan here to hear this?" Sultan asked cheerfully. "Can you take me to him and then repeat what you said? I want him to know what a genius I am!"

She smiled, and a large bubble surrounded him.

Then she said, "You must tell him yourself, and you must tell the world."

Then they flew.





Sultan heard an explosion and was almost blinded by a very bright light. When he looked away, he saw his siblings next to him.

It was only seconds before the number 100 appeared on the screen in front of them, and the countdown started as if he was going back in time until it stopped at 50.

The day had come to an end, and they were all busy working on their projects. It is possible that what the three of them saw was just a dream, or maybe Alia really had invented a time machine, but they realised that their dreams wouldn't come true without determination and hard work.

The future is in their hands now, so what will the three of them do? And what will you do?







## My Childhood in Fifty Years' Time

Literary Facilitator: Eman Al Youssef

Artistic Facilitator: Sondos AlShaibi

Art Director: Yuser AlAbbychi

Hudhud Publishing & Distribution

info@hudhuduae.com

www.hudhuduae.com

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The Ministry of Community Development of the United Arab Emirates works to create a cohesive, responsible community engaged in social development by making sure that all of the country's citizens have access to high-quality care and social services.

Towards a perfect realisation of a “cohesive family” and “community that works together,” the Ministry adopts a new approach to government service that places a special focus on local groups (the family, children, young people planning to marry, senior citizens, determined individuals, and civil society “associations of public benefit.”

To realise the UAE's centennial vision in 2071, as represented by the motto “Towards a more cohesive society,” the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Community Development has developed and implemented new policies, programmes, and projects and is already providing proactive and digital services to all client categories, regardless of location.



The Sharjah Child Friendly Office (SCFO), a subsidiary of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs (SCFA) in Sharjah, was established under the directives of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, and his wife, Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, Chairperson of SCFA, to work in collaboration with relevant bodies to design and implement targeted strategies and programs to support the rights of children and youth.

SCFO is the official body for granting ‘Child Friendly’ and ‘Family Friendly’ accreditations to relevant entities in Sharjah and the UAE, and works with international and national organizations to implement accreditation programmes to further promote children's rights.



