



Winner of
CANVAS
Romeo Forbes
Children's
Storywriting
Competition

SILIM

PRINSESA NG DILIM

Isinulat ni
Mark Joseph Bacho

inilarawan ni
Luis Lorenzana



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All artworks featured in this book are by Luis Lorenzana.




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A painting of a landscape with a river and mountains under a sky with a sun and a crescent moon. The sun is on the left, and the crescent moon is on the right. The sky is a mix of light and dark blue. The landscape is in shades of brown and green.

Nilikha ang dilim noong simula,
pati araw, buwan, at mga tala.
Bawat isa ay espiritu o diwa,
sama-sama sa langit sa ibabaw ng lupa.

*In the beginning, darkness came
along with spirits who weren't the same:
there were the stars, the moon, and the sun.
In the skies above land lived each one.*




Dahil halos lahat, hatid ay kinang,
puno ng liwanag ang buong araw.

Si Aga ang diwang totoy ng liwanag.
Bughaw ang barong, hatid ay sinag.
Laging kasama si Alab, diwa ng araw,
apoy ang buhok at barong ay dilaw.



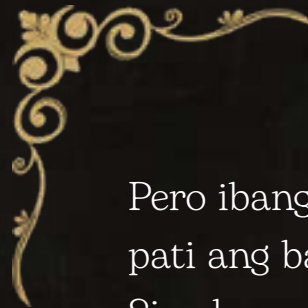
*Apart from one, they all shone bright
and so the day was filled with light.*

*As the spirit of light, Aga was known
for his blue barong in which he shone.
With the spirit of the sun, he always came.
Alab, in a yellow barong, his hair aflame.*




Si Yumi ang marikit na diwang nene,
suot ang baro't sayang puting-puti.
Siya naman ang diwa ng Buwan.
Ang dalang liwanag, pilak na malamlam.
Ang mga diwa ng bituin ay sari-sari,
suot ang iba't ibang kulay ng bahaghari.
Dahil puno ng liwanag ang mundo,
puno ng sigla ang lahat ng mga tao.
Pagsasaka't pangingisda ay buhay na buhay
dahil ang liwanag ay di namamatay.
Puno ng saya ang buong kalupaan
at kailanma'y walang kalungkutan.
Walang sawa silang pumuri kay Abba,
at sa kasamaan, wala silang pangamba.

*The spirit of the moon was a girl called Yumi
who wore a baro't saya, blazing white and lovely.
Wherever she went, she brought with her
a shining orb of faded silver.
The many spirit stars were all aglow
wearing the colors of the rainbow.
Just as the world was filled with light,
each man on earth was filled with delight.
Farming and fishing always flourished
with the light that was never extinguished.
All the earth was ever happy
without any reason to be gloomy.
To Abba they offered praise and cheer.
There was no terror. There was no fear.*



Pero ibang-iba si Silim, diwa ng dilim,
pati ang baro't sayang napakaitim.
Siya lamang ang kimi at tahimik,
kasama ang libro, kuwago, at kuliglig.
Pipi ang tukso ng mga diwa sa kanya,
pero gusto pa rin niyang maging kaibigan sila.

*But here was Silim, spirit of the dark.
With her black baro't saya, she stood apart.
She was always alone, shy and quiet,
spending time with her books, her owl, and her crickets.
"Maybe she's mute," they teased to no end.
But even so, she wanted to be friends.*





Yaya ni Alab, “Maglaro tayo, tara!”
“Puwedeng sumali?” tanong ni Silim sa kanila.
“Bawal dito ang pipi!” hagikgikan nila.
“Puwede, kung kaya mong—” sagot ni Aga.
At sabay-sabay pinakawalan, sari-saring salamangka:
bughaw, ginto, pilak, mula sa mga palad nila.

Alab calls out: “Come on, let’s play.”
“Mind if I join?” Silim would say.
“We don’t play with mutes,” they would snicker.
“Maybe, if you could—” Aga would tell her.
They released from their palms, altogether—
magical light of blue, gold, and silver.



Nag-aalangan man, sinubok ni Silim,
pero ang salamangka niya ay kulay itim.
Tukso ni Aga, kasabay ang iba, “Prinsesa ng dilim!”
Malakas ang iyak, madaling umalis si Silim.

*Silim took a shot. But just as she feared,
the black of her magic was all that appeared.
“Princess of darkness!” they teased and they laughed.
With nothing but tears, Silim hurriedly left.*





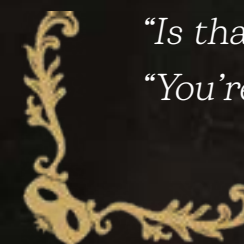
“Alagang kuwago, bakit kaya ayaw nila sa akin?
Dahil masaya sila, at iba akong malungkutin?”

Kaya kapangyarihan ay ginamit niya.
Pinintahan ang mukhang parang maskara.
Para makatulad ng mga gusto niyang kaibiganin,
malungkot na mukha’y ginawang masayahin.
Inilihim ang dilim at maitim na kasuotan,
at naging kasingdalisay ng kaliwanagan.

Bati ni Alab, “Ikaw ba yan, Silim?
Tulad ka na naming nagniningning!”

*“Dear owl, my friend, why don’t they like me?
Because unlike them, I’m always unhappy?”*

*And so she put her powers to task,
painting her face just like a mask.
To be the same as the friends that she wanted
On her sorrowful face, a smile became planted.
She did away with her dark and black dress.
In its place she wore light and brightness.*



*“Is that you, Silim?” was Alab’s greeting.
“You’re like us now, shining and sparkling!”*




Bilang patunay na siya'y tulad na nila,
nilabanan ni Silim ang likas niyang salamangka.
Dahan-dahang lumabas sa kanyang palad:
hindi itim, kundi puting liwanag.

“Puwede na ba akong sumali?” tanong niya
kahit na kinakapos ng hininga.
“Sige, pero itaboy mo muna sila.”
Sa kuliglig at kuwago nakaturo si Aga.

*And to prove to them that she really belonged,
she fought the magic that made her strong.
Slowly but surely, from her palm shone
a bright white light that was not her own.*

*“Can I join you now?” was Silim’s retort
even though drained and her breath was short.
“Sure, but first, get rid of your pets.”
Aga was pointing at her owl and her crickets.*





Sinunod ni Silim ang bughaw na diwa
at pinaglaho ang mga kawawang alaga.
Dahil kabilang na siya sa mga diwa,
si Silim ngayon ay tuwang-tuwa.


Pero di nagtagal, kanyang napapansin
puting suot niya'y unti-unting nangingitim.
Nabubura na rin ang pinta sa mukha.
Nauubos ang lakas. Katawa'y nanghihina.

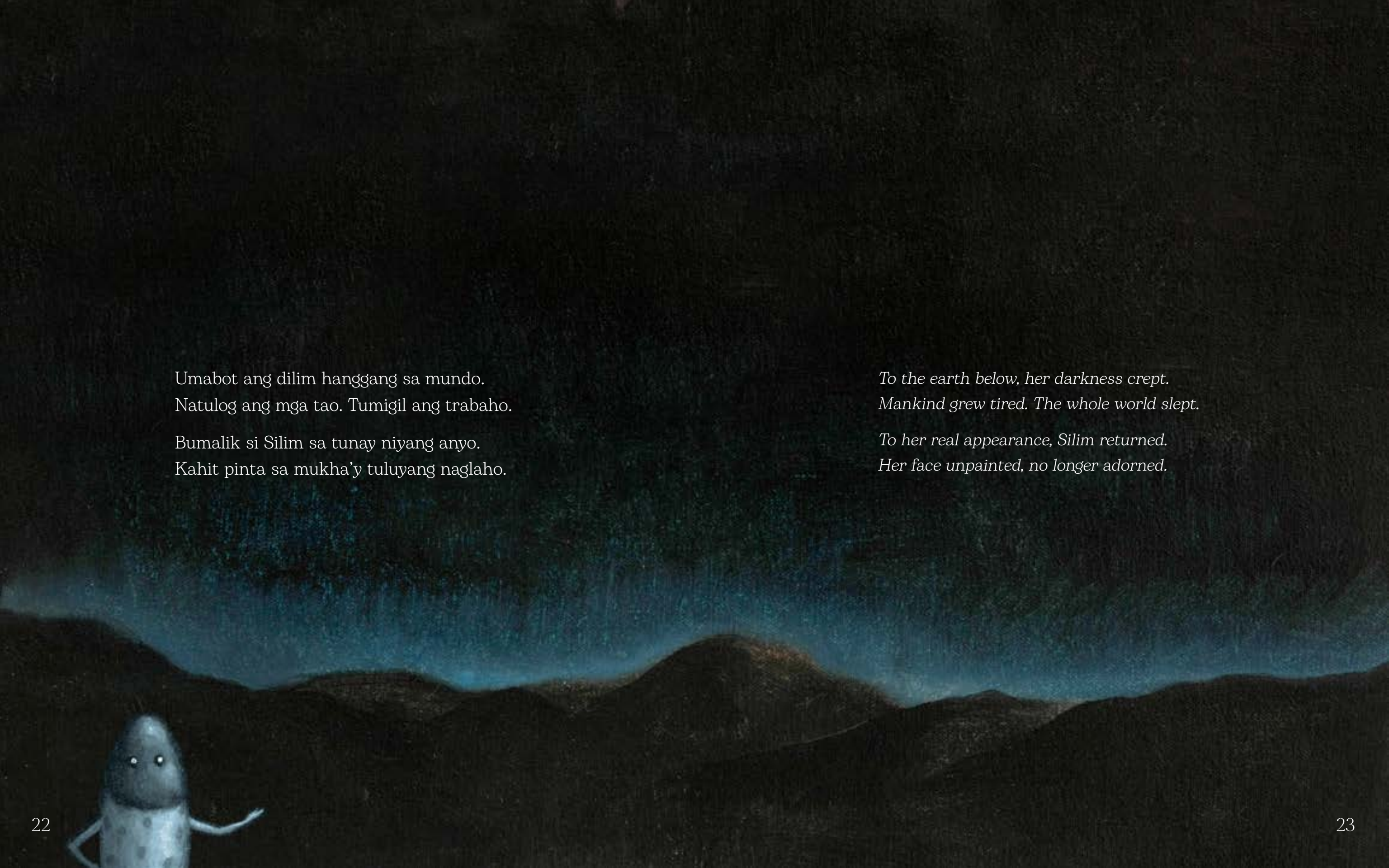
Nanlambot si Silim sa paglikha ng liwanag.
At ang angking dilim ay biglang kumalat!

*The blue spirit's order, Silim did obey.
She went and chased her poor friends away.
Finally, Silim was part of the circle,
her heart full of joy, her eyes full of twinkle.*

*But it didn't take long. Soon, she was seeing
that the white in her dress was slowly dimming.
The paint on her face was merely a streak.
Little by little, she was growing weak.*

*Creating light made her strength eroded.
So the darkness in her suddenly exploded!*





Umabot ang dilim hanggang sa mundo.
Natulog ang mga tao. Tumigil ang trabaho.
Bumalik si Silim sa tunay niyang anyo.
Kahit pinta sa mukha'y tuluyang naglaho.

*To the earth below, her darkness crept.
Mankind grew tired. The whole world slept.
To her real appearance, Silim returned.
Her face unpainted, no longer adorned.*

“Ano’ng ginawa mo? Kasalanan mo ito!”
Sunod-sunod ang mga diwa sa pagrereklamo.
Sigaw ni Aga, “May mabuti ka bang nagawa?
Kahit kailan man, talagang wala-wala!”

Itinaboy nila si Silim dahil sa kanilang gulat.
Nagtago si Silim sa makakapal na ulap.
Sa mga dating alaga, patawad ay hiningi.
Kuliglig at kuwago, kinaibigan siyang muli.

*“This is your fault! What did you do?”
The spirits were soon complaining anew.
“What good have you ever really done?”
Aga shouted, “Really, there’s none!”*

*In their surprise, they cast her aside.
Behind dark clouds, Silim would hide.
Asking forgiveness from her former pets,
Silim reunited with her owl and crickets.*



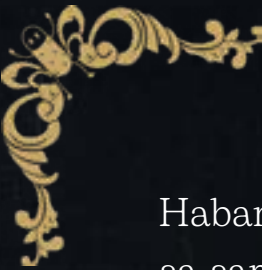


Ang mga diwa naman ay nagtulungan
para tuluyang mawala ang lahat ng kadiliman.
Pinalakas nila ang liwanag ng bawat isa!
Muling nagpuri ang mga tao kay Abba.

Pero ang mga taong iniligtas sa paghimbang,
muling naghanap ng pagdating ng dilim.
Sa walang-tigil na liwanag, sila ay napagod
at gusto na nilang muling makatulog.

*Meanwhile, the spirits put their minds together
to get rid of all darkness forever and ever.
As much as they could, they made their light brighten
until all the earth thanked Abba again.*

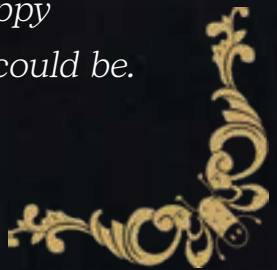
*But then, the people for whom they were heroes
were soon asking for the return of the shadows.
The nonstop brightness became a pest
to the weary workers who wanted to rest.*



Habang si Silim, mag-isang nag-iisip
sa sarili niyang lihim na sulok ng langit.
“Wala ba akong lugar sa mundo?
Mabuti nga siguro kung maglaho ako.”
Pero unti-unti, sa pag-iisa’y lumigaya.
Natanggap ni Silim ang sarili niya.

*Meanwhile, Silim was thinking alone
in a dark part of sky that was all her own.
“If there is no place where I can belong,
maybe it’s best that I just move on.”*

*Slowly, by herself, she became happy
with who she was and what she could be.*



Samantala, may problema ang mga diwa.
Umiinit, natutuyo, nasusunog ang lupa.

Dahil sa liwanag na walang pahinga,
humiling, dumaing ang lahat kay Abba.

Pero wala silang nakuhang sagot.
Dahil para sa mga diwa itong pagsubok.

*But still, the spirits remained in a knot.
The earth was parched and burning and hot.*

*The unending light became a problem.
Mankind cried out for Abba to save them.*

*There was no rescue. There was no answer.
This was a puzzle for the spirits to decipher.*





Naalala ng mga diwa ang itinaboy na Silim
at ang himbing na hatid ng angkin niyang dilim.

Tinanggap ng mga diwang nagkamali sila.
“Hanapin si Silim!” ang naging pasya.

*The spirits then remembered the cast out Silim
and the sleep that comes with the dark that she brings.*

*Humbled, they knew they made a mistake.
They agreed, “Find Silim, for mankind’s sake!”*

Sa namumuong ulap na napakadilim,
natagpuan ng mga diwa ang nagtagong Silim.

Humingi ng tawad at nagpakumbaba
kay Silim ang dating mayayabang na diwa.
“Sinaktan ka namin,” kanilang simula.
Sabi pa ni Aga, “Patawad sa panunuya.”

“Akala namin, di ka namin kailangan.
Pero hinahanap ka ng sangkatauhan.”

Masama man ang loob, naintindihan ni Silim.
Ngayo’y alam na niya ang kaya niyang gawin.
Bumuhos ang luha sa binuksan niyang puso,
na pinuno ng tuwa ng kanilang pagkakasundo.

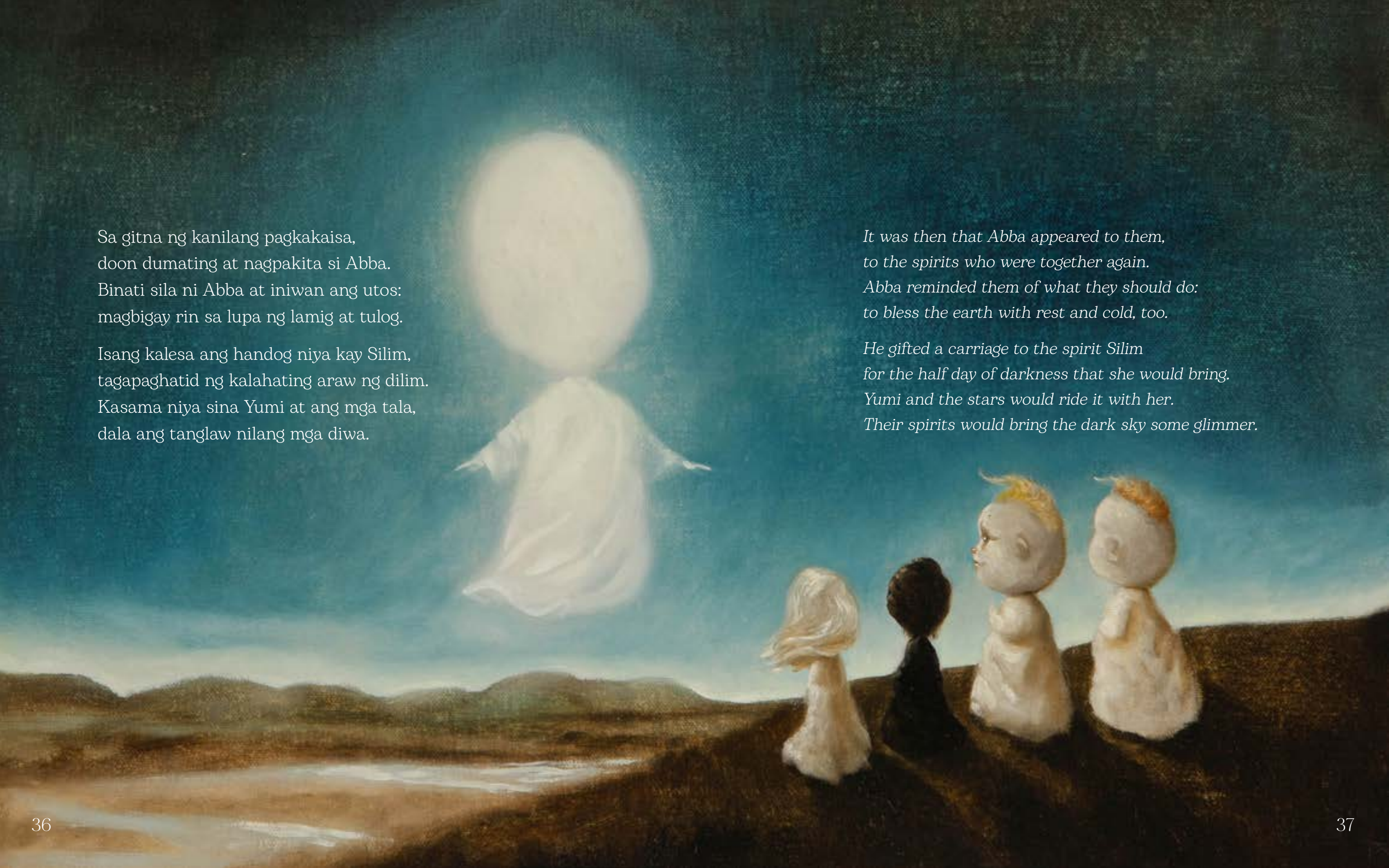


*In a bundle of clouds that was ever so dim,
the spirits discovered the hiding Silim.*

*The spirits who used to be so high and mighty
spoke humbly to Silim and said they were sorry.
“We know we hurt you,” they would begin.
Aga said, “Sorry for being so mean.”*

*“We were wrong to think you had no worth.
But now, you are what can save the earth.”*

*Though she was hurting, Silim understood
because she now knew her magic was good.
She opened her heart, crying and healing,
to the joy of a friendship that was finally starting.*




Sa gitna ng kanilang pagkakaisa,
doon dumating at nagpakita si Abba.
Binati sila ni Abba at iniwan ang utos:
magbigay rin sa lupa ng lamig at tulog.

Isang kalesa ang handog niya kay Silim,
tagapaghatid ng kalahating araw ng dilim.
Kasama niya sina Yumi at ang mga tala,
dala ang tanglaw nilang mga diwa.

*It was then that Abba appeared to them,
to the spirits who were together again.
Abba reminded them of what they should do:
to bless the earth with rest and cold, too.*

*He gifted a carriage to the spirit Silim
for the half day of darkness that she would bring.
Yumi and the stars would ride it with her.
Their spirits would bring the dark sky some glimmer.*



Sa mga diwa namang sina Aga't Alab
kalahati ring araw ang pagliliwanag.
Init at sinag ang ihahatid nila
sa maghapon, tanghali, at umaga.

Sa pagtanggap sa dilim at sa sarili,
nilikha nina Silim ang unang gabi.
Doon siya hihintayin, habang tulog ang mundo,
ng mga kaibigan niyang kuliglig at kuwago.

*To Aga and Alab, whose spirits shone bright,
the other half of day was theirs to light.
Heat and shine are what they would bring
to the afternoon, and noon, and the morning.*

*Because of the dark and self she accepted,
with Silim, the first night was created.
There, while the world is deep in slumber,
her owl and her crickets will wait for her.*



Tungkol sa Manunulat

Mula bata pa siya ay nakahiligan na ni **Mark Joseph Bacho** na magbasa ng mga alamat, pabula, at mga kwentong mitolohiko kaya't nangangarap siyang isabuhay ang karanasan ng lahing kayumanggi sa pamamagitan din ng mga ito. Nagtapos siya ng BS Business Administration, Major in Marketing Management sa Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

“Silim, Prinsesa ng Dilim” ang kanyang unang aklat. Nakatira siya sa Pasig kasama ang kanyang mahiyaing pusang si Sam.



Tungkol sa Ilustrador

Tinuruan ni **Luis Lorenzana** ang sarili niya para maging ilustrador. Sa gobyerno kasi nakatutok ang pag-aaral niya at kasanayan sa trabaho. Pero dahil dito, lumilitaw ang politika sa mga gawa niya.

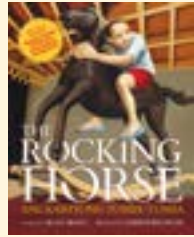
Ngayon, may sarili na siyang estilo sa tawag na “pop surrealist.” Nakalahok na siya sa maraming eksibit sa loob at labas ng bansa. Noong Enero 2020 ang una niyang solo na eksibit sa isang museo, sa Katzen Arts Center, American University Museum sa Washington D.C.



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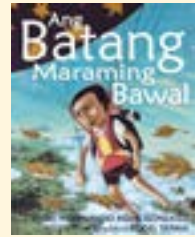
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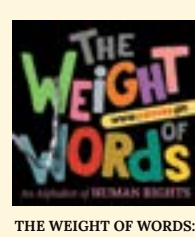
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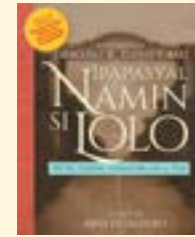
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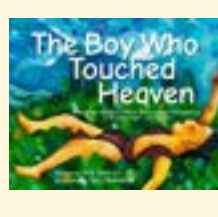
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Story by Iris Gem Li
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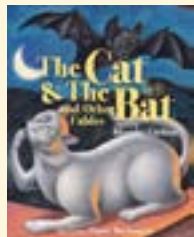
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Siya lamang ang kimi at tahimik,
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May tanong siyang kinikimkim:
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