

Selim and His Shadow

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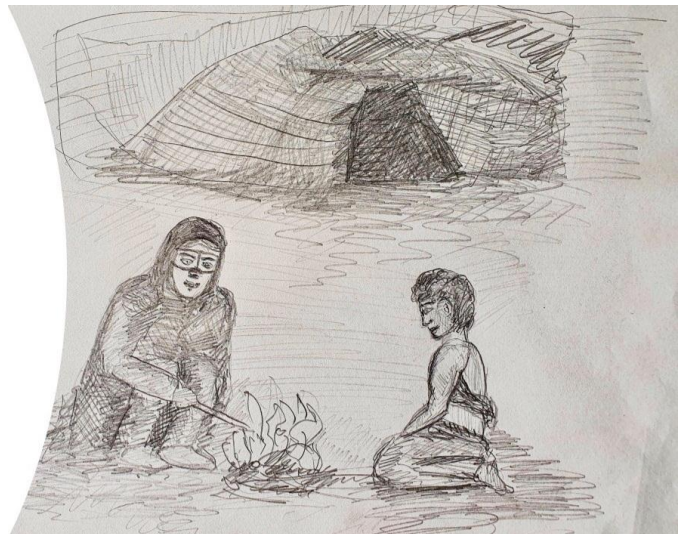
This is the latest children's e-book in Mehri produced for the Leverhulme Trust-funded Documentation and Ethnolinguistic Analysis of Modern South Arabian project (2013–2016), and the second story in the *Selim and the Natural World* series. For the full multimodal e-book, voiceover is by Abdullah al-Mahri.¹ The story follows Selim taking a goat skin bag from his mother to his grandmother. Along the way he sleeps beneath an *Acacia tortilis* tree, hanging the goat skin bag on a branch. He forgets the bag, and later loses his shadow. He arrives at his grandmother's cave home with no goat skin bag and no shadow. His grandmother sends him back to look for the bag and tells him to look for his shadow on the way. The story draws on the significance of shade and shadow in Mehri culture: to provide for someone you should assure shade from the sun and shelter from the cold and the rain. When people are very forgetful the importance of shadow returns in the saying: *yābnayh ābhlah* '[he is so forgetful] he forgets his shadow!'.¹

سيلم واهله

عبدالله مسلم المهري

وجانت واتسون

الرسم: دمنيك ايدس



¹ A multimedia PowerPoint of this story will be available at the [Mehri language archive](https://www.elar.org.uk/mehri-language-archive) on ELAR.

هصباح سيلم برك اضيحاء هل حامه

Selim woke in the cave home with his mother.



امروت حامه: سيلم احمك تهوصل ايسب ذومه توولي آمتك وحذور من تهنه طور مشيغر

His mother said: I want you to take this goat skin bag to your grandmother, and make sure you don't forget it again!



سيلم سيور سيور انا قيطا

Selim walked and walked and walked until he got tired.



كوسا حروض باليت هولاً ثليل امور: لوب ذقطاءك اهوم لشكف سوانوت

He found an Acacia tree with lots of shade and said: I'm really tired, I'm going to sleep for a bit.



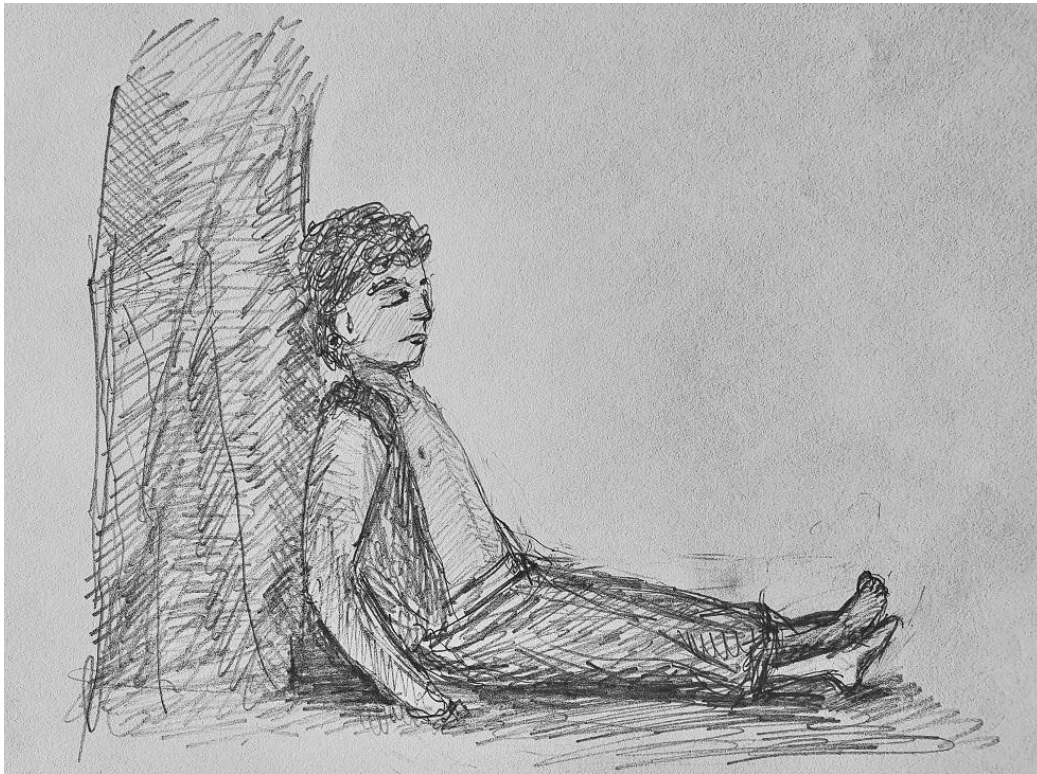
پنوق اڤيسب بهذليل ذاخروض امور: مهنه اڤيسب ذآميتي لا

He hung the goat skin bag on a branch of the Acacia tree and said: I'm not going to forget my grandmother's bag.



شوڪوف

He fell asleep.



عپ من شنيٽ وسيور واپيسب بامكونه

He woke up and set off, leaving the bag where it was.



سيور سيور سيور انا كوسا پترير امور: احووم لغفيل سوانوت بومه

He walked and walked and walked until he found a pool, and said: I want to play a bit here.



وآفود وبوه ولحلوك انا قيطا اهله من اعيفد

He jumped here and there until his shadow got tired of jumping.



بيقي اھله باپروق امشيغر ذاپتير وسيور سيلم

His shadow stayed on the other side of the pool and Selim carried on.



سيور سيور سيور اٽا ويصل اضيجا ذآمته

He walked and walked and walked until he arrived at his grandmother's cave home.



امروت آمتہ: سلیم شوک ھاپن بومہ ؟
 امور: حامی امروت لازمش ایسب ذومہ ذشی

His grandmother said: Selim, what are you doing here?

He said: Mother told me to bring you this goat skin bag that I have.



امروت آمتہ: سلیم آد تاقاء ھنھیک ایسب طور مشیغر ؟
 امور: حوہ ویاحوہ ھنھیک تہ نخالی احروض

His grandmother said: Selim, have you gone and forgotten the goat skin bag again?

He said: Oh no! I must have left in under the Acacia tree.

امروت: نکان بیسب ولحرمک غلیق من اھلک

She said: Bring the goat skin bag, and while you are at it, look for your shadow!

یردود سلیم کینج

Selim set off back the way he had come.



كوسا اّيسب برك اّروض وغلوق من اّله

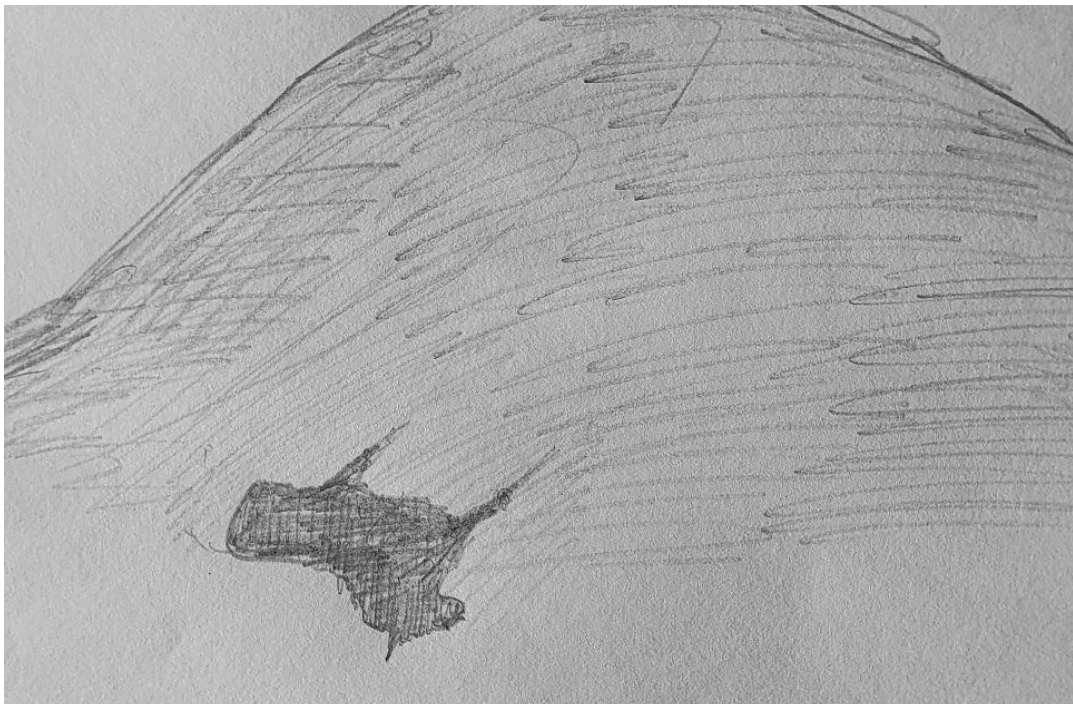
He found the goat skin bag in the Acacia tree and looked for his shadow.



سيور نخالي كرميم پيني هولامور: ذومه هيه اهّلي
امور اهّولا: ويلوب ذومه لهيه اهّلك لا اقوبل اغوف

He walked by a hill and saw a shadow. He said: That is my shadow!

The shadow said: No this isn't your shadow! Look up!



اقوبل سيلم اغوف وپيني يثيل

He looked up and saw a fox.



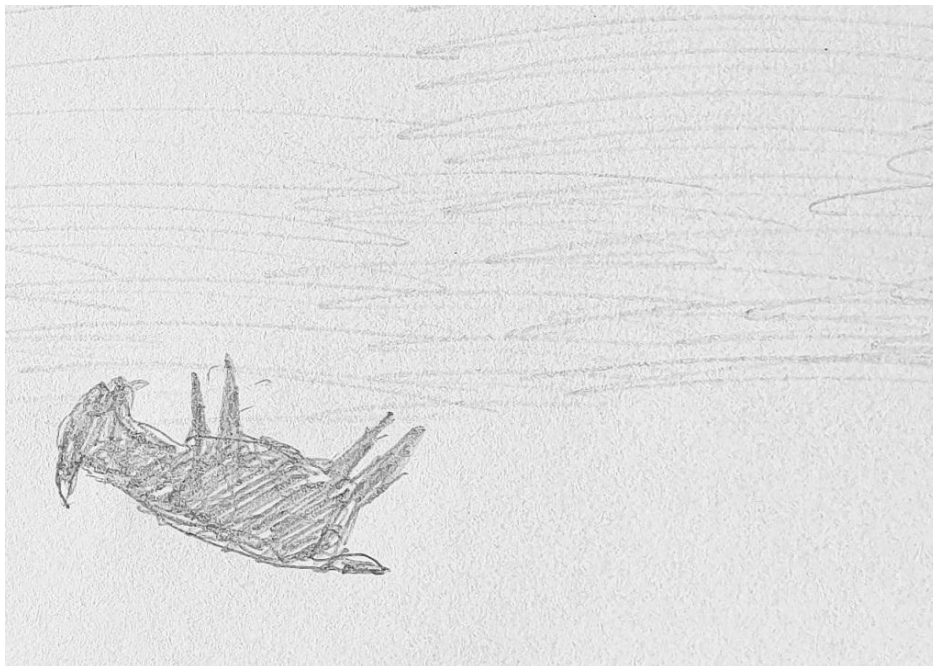
مغورن پيني هولاً

امور: ذومه هيه اهلي

امور اهولا: ويلوب ذومه لهيه اهلك لا اقوبل اغوف

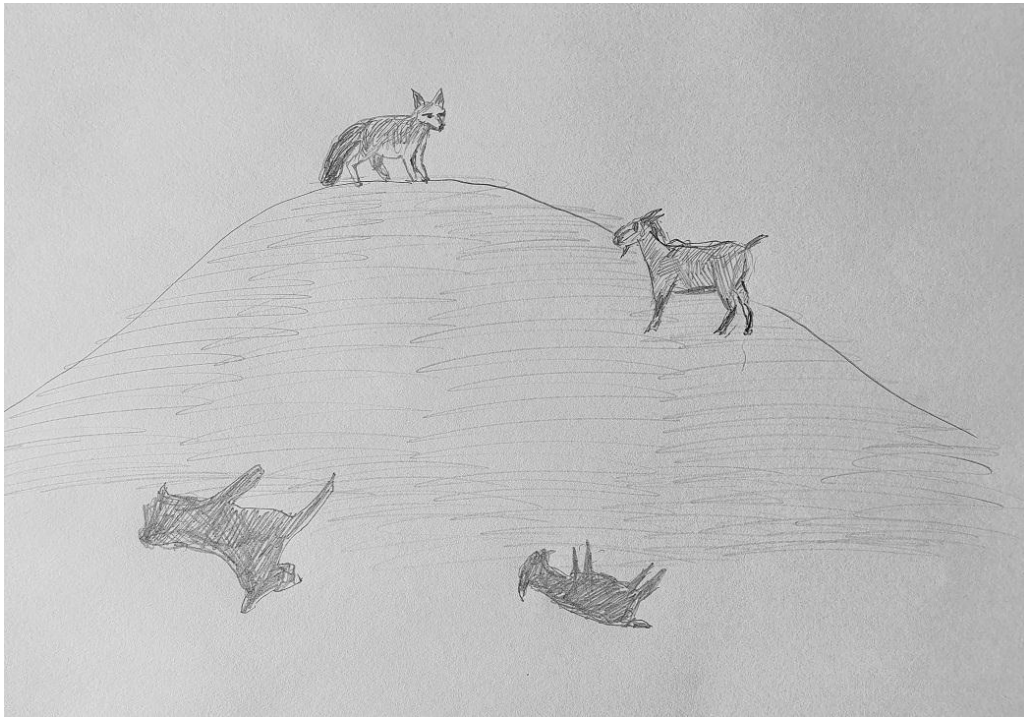
Then he saw another shadow. He said: That is my shadow!

The shadow said: No, this isn't your shadow! Look up!



اقوبل سيلم اغوف وپيني حوز

Selim looked up, and saw a goat.



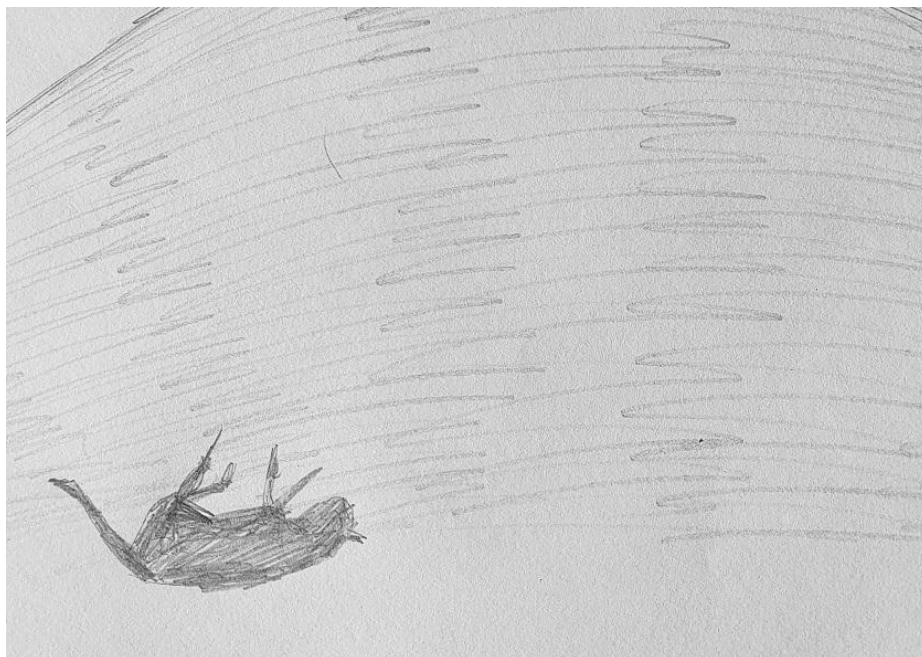
مغورن پيني هولاً

امور: ذومه هيه اهلي

امور اهولاً: ويلوب ذومه لهيه اهلك لا اقوبل اغوف

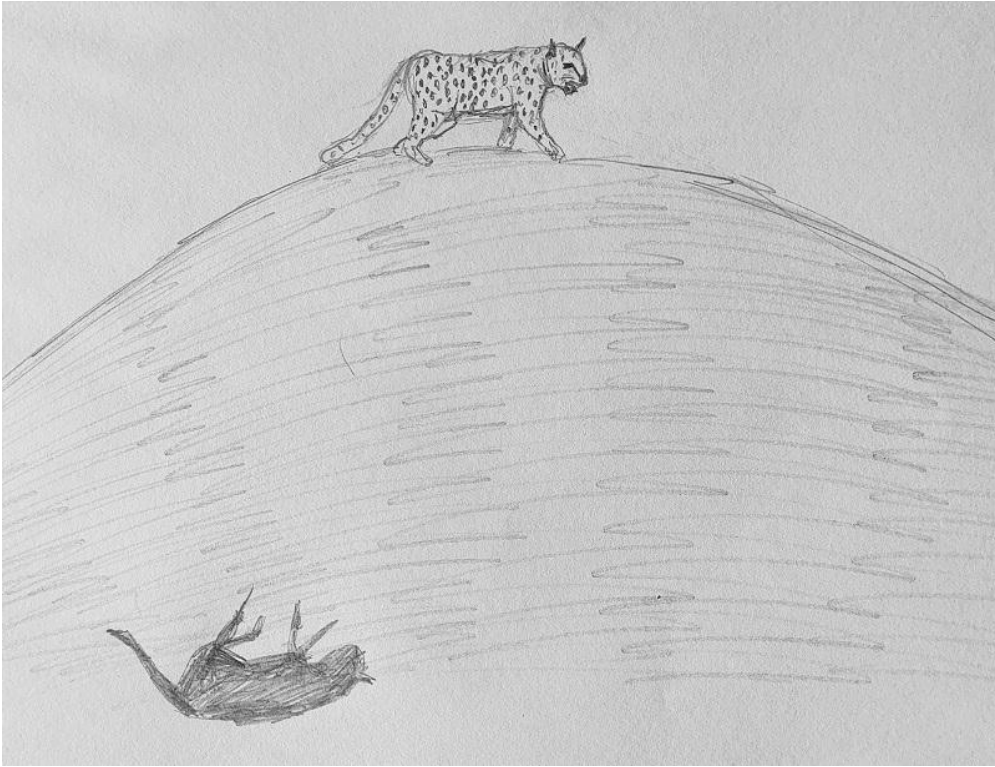
Then he saw another shadow. He said: 'That is my shadow!'

The shadow said: 'No, this isn't your shadow! Look up!'



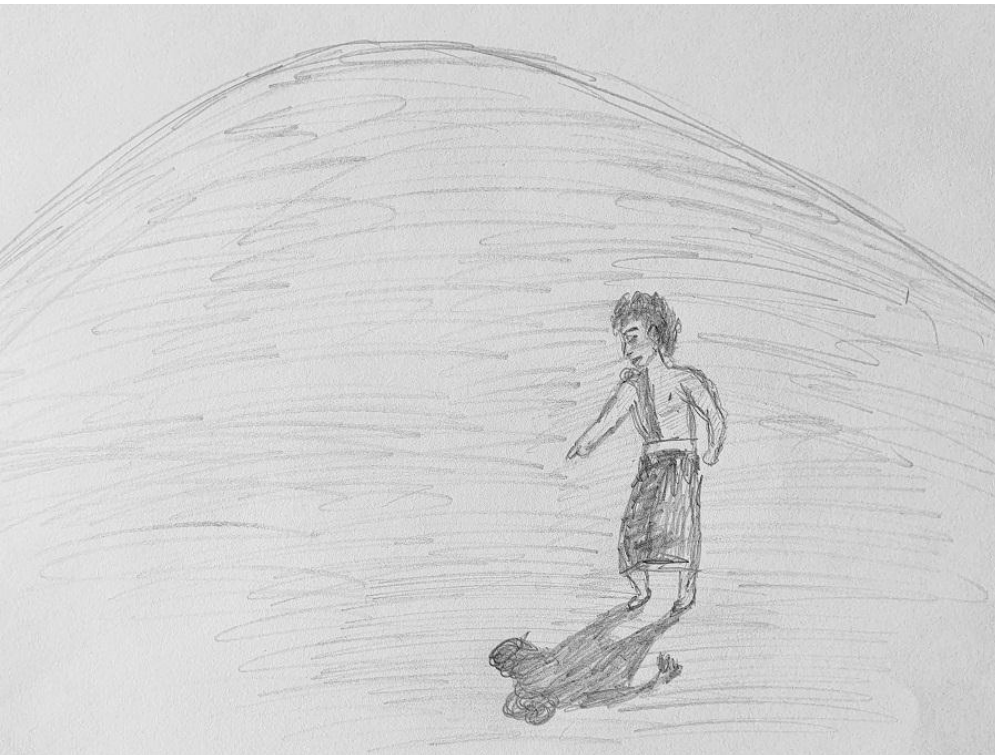
اقوبل سيلم اغوف وپيني قيضر

Selim looked up, and saw an Arabian leopard.



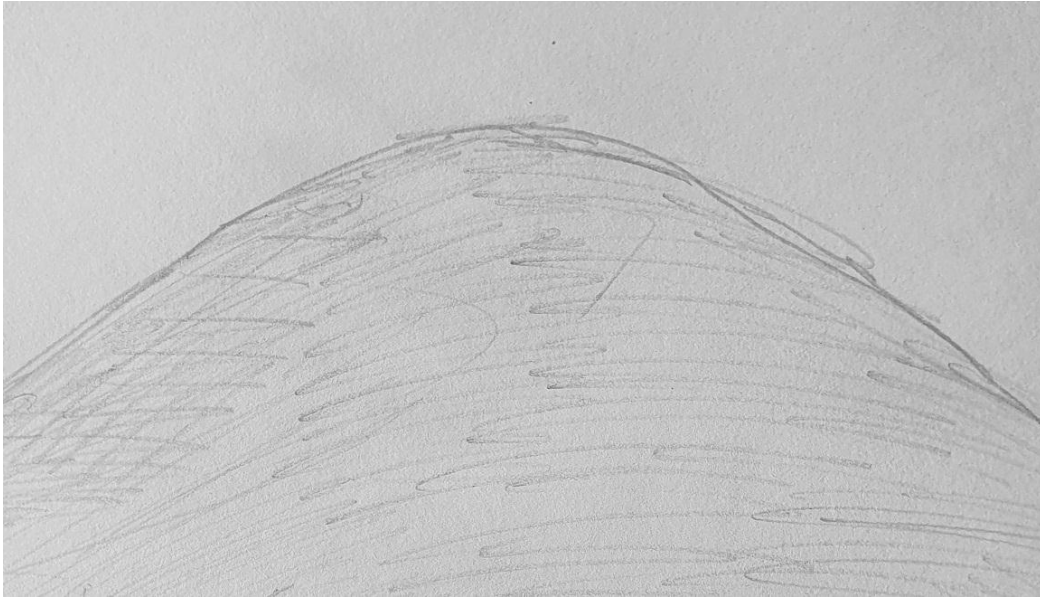
مغورن پيني هولا مشيغر

Then he saw another shadow.



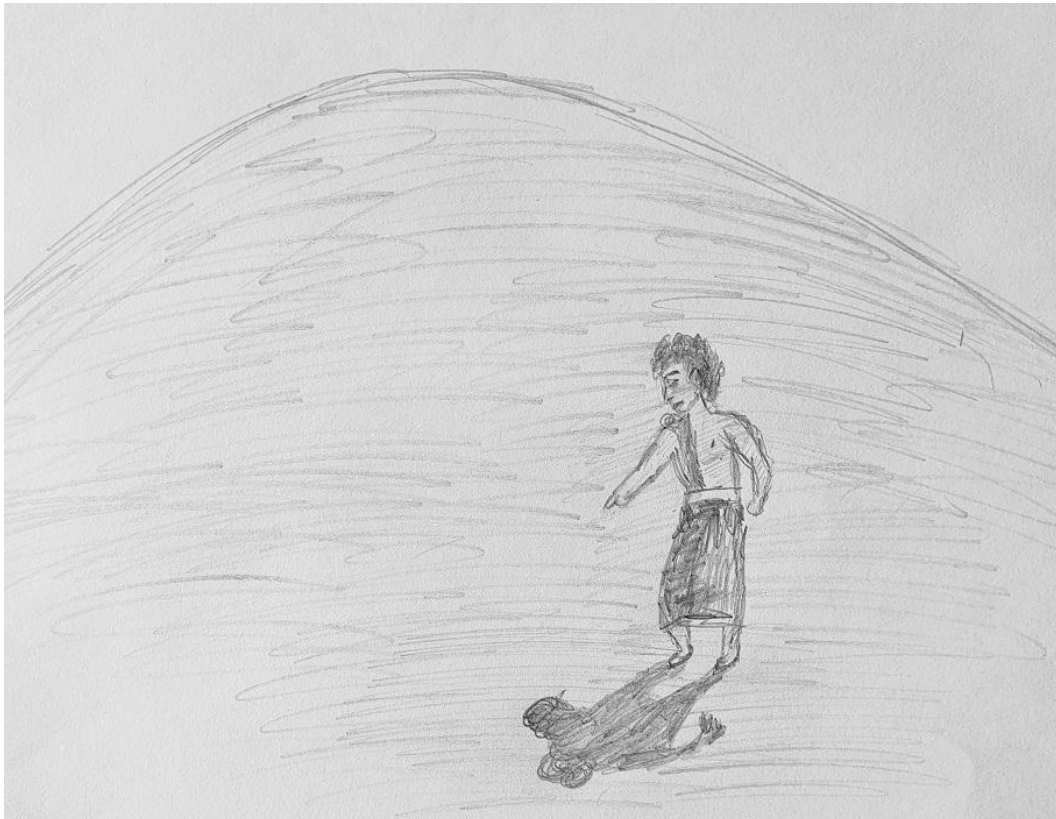
اقوبل سيلم اغوف وپيني پي لا

Selim looked up, and didn't see anything.



امور: دومه هيه اهلي آد اكوب لكسيك لا
امور اهولا: ياحول دومه اهلك

He said: That is my shadow! I never thought I would find you!
The shadow said: Yes indeed, this is your shadow.



ورد كينح توولي اضيجا ذآمتة هيه واهله واپيسب

Selim went back to his grandmother's cave home together with himself, his shadow and the goat skin bag.

