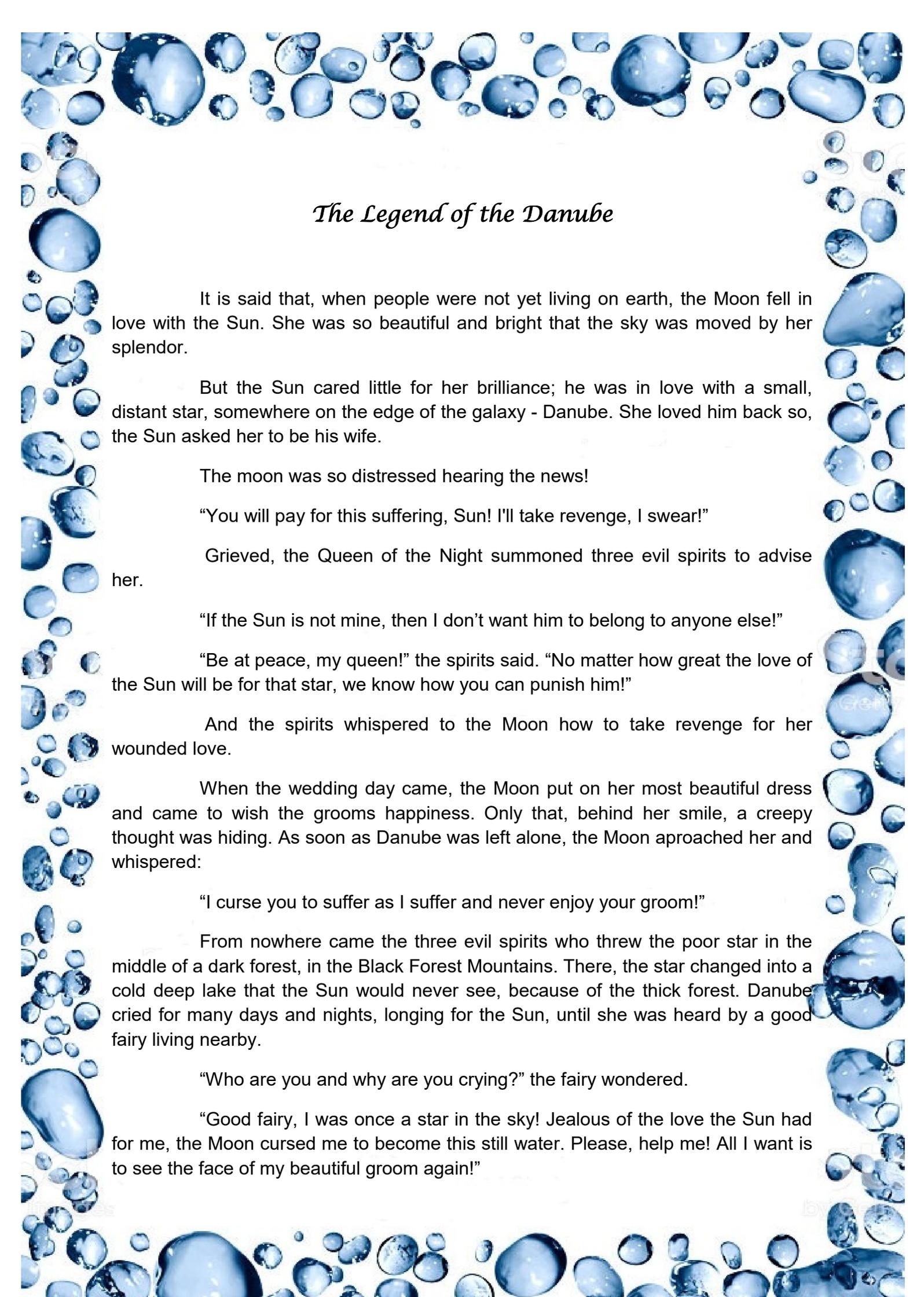


A dynamic splash of clear blue water forms a circular frame around the text. The water is captured in mid-air, with numerous droplets and bubbles scattered throughout the scene, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The background is a plain, light color, making the blue water stand out prominently.

Romanian myths and legends



The Legend of the Danube

It is said that, when people were not yet living on earth, the Moon fell in love with the Sun. She was so beautiful and bright that the sky was moved by her splendor.

But the Sun cared little for her brilliance; he was in love with a small, distant star, somewhere on the edge of the galaxy - Danube. She loved him back so, the Sun asked her to be his wife.

The moon was so distressed hearing the news!

“You will pay for this suffering, Sun! I'll take revenge, I swear!”

Grieved, the Queen of the Night summoned three evil spirits to advise her.

“If the Sun is not mine, then I don't want him to belong to anyone else!”

“Be at peace, my queen!” the spirits said. “No matter how great the love of the Sun will be for that star, we know how you can punish him!”

And the spirits whispered to the Moon how to take revenge for her wounded love.

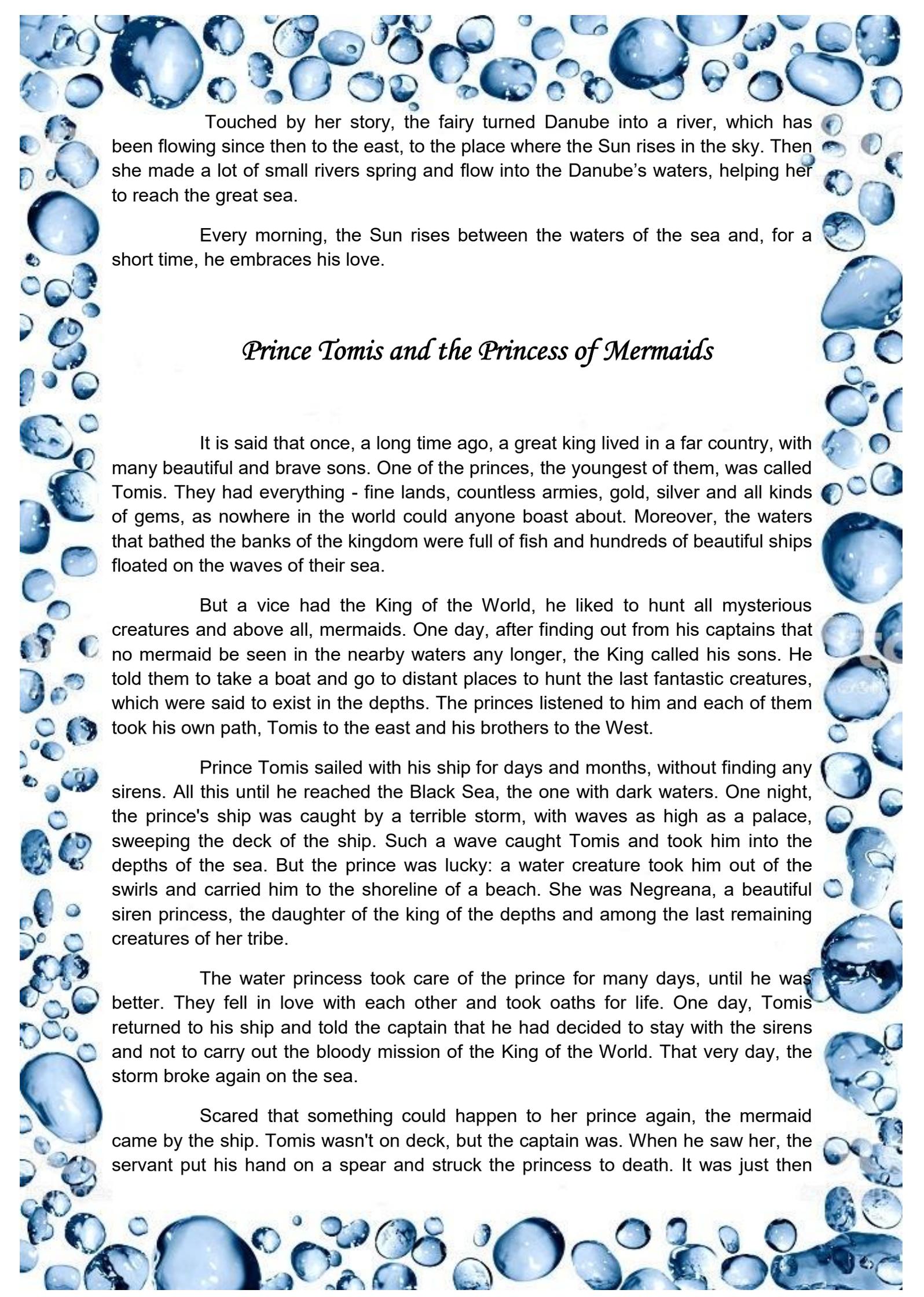
When the wedding day came, the Moon put on her most beautiful dress and came to wish the grooms happiness. Only that, behind her smile, a creepy thought was hiding. As soon as Danube was left alone, the Moon approached her and whispered:

“I curse you to suffer as I suffer and never enjoy your groom!”

From nowhere came the three evil spirits who threw the poor star in the middle of a dark forest, in the Black Forest Mountains. There, the star changed into a cold deep lake that the Sun would never see, because of the thick forest. Danube cried for many days and nights, longing for the Sun, until she was heard by a good fairy living nearby.

“Who are you and why are you crying?” the fairy wondered.

“Good fairy, I was once a star in the sky! Jealous of the love the Sun had for me, the Moon cursed me to become this still water. Please, help me! All I want is to see the face of my beautiful groom again!”



Touched by her story, the fairy turned Danube into a river, which has been flowing since then to the east, to the place where the Sun rises in the sky. Then she made a lot of small rivers spring and flow into the Danube's waters, helping her to reach the great sea.

Every morning, the Sun rises between the waters of the sea and, for a short time, he embraces his love.

Prince Tomis and the Princess of Mermaids

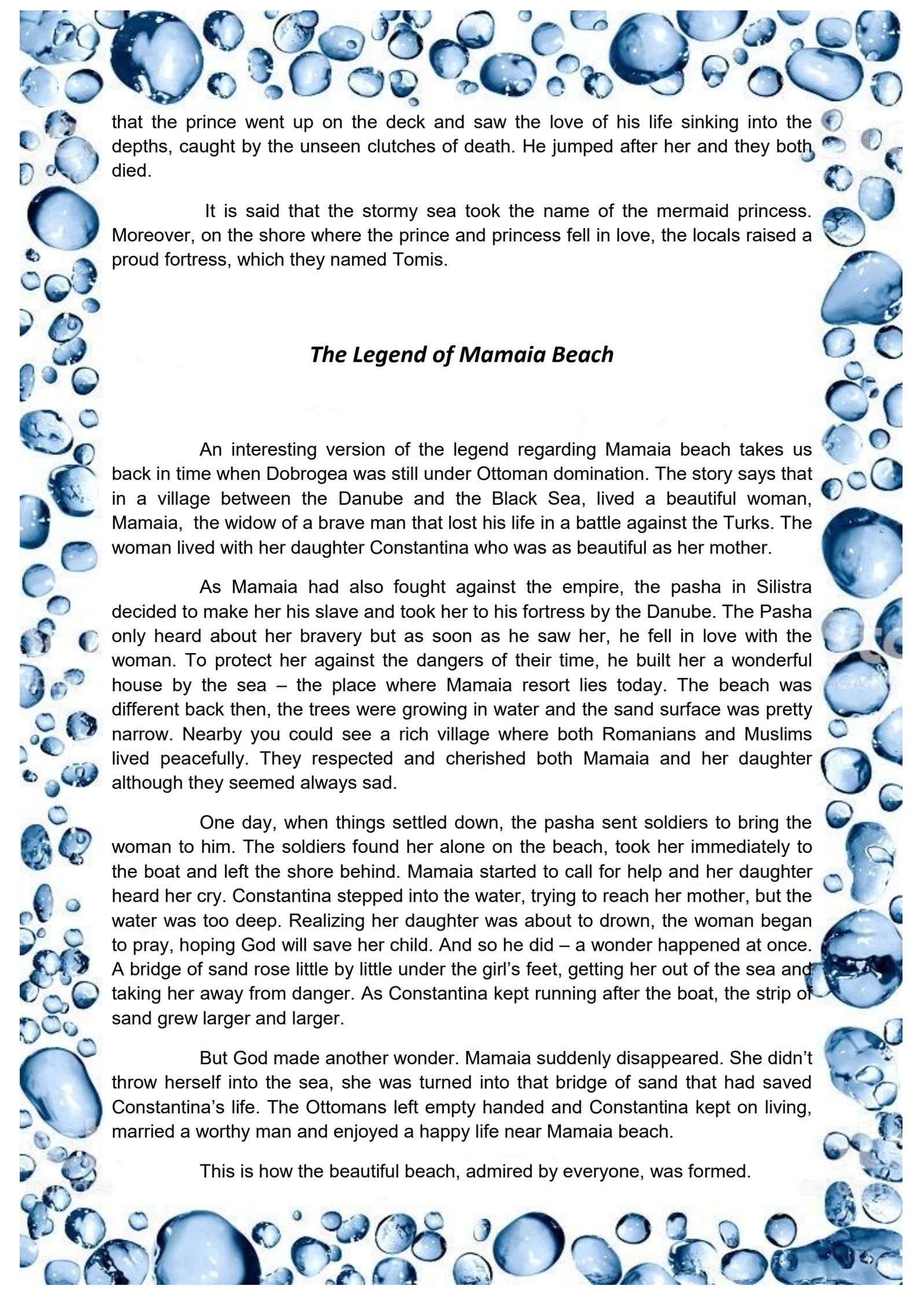
It is said that once, a long time ago, a great king lived in a far country, with many beautiful and brave sons. One of the princes, the youngest of them, was called Tomis. They had everything - fine lands, countless armies, gold, silver and all kinds of gems, as nowhere in the world could anyone boast about. Moreover, the waters that bathed the banks of the kingdom were full of fish and hundreds of beautiful ships floated on the waves of their sea.

But a vice had the King of the World, he liked to hunt all mysterious creatures and above all, mermaids. One day, after finding out from his captains that no mermaid be seen in the nearby waters any longer, the King called his sons. He told them to take a boat and go to distant places to hunt the last fantastic creatures, which were said to exist in the depths. The princes listened to him and each of them took his own path, Tomis to the east and his brothers to the West.

Prince Tomis sailed with his ship for days and months, without finding any sirens. All this until he reached the Black Sea, the one with dark waters. One night, the prince's ship was caught by a terrible storm, with waves as high as a palace, sweeping the deck of the ship. Such a wave caught Tomis and took him into the depths of the sea. But the prince was lucky: a water creature took him out of the swirls and carried him to the shoreline of a beach. She was Negreana, a beautiful siren princess, the daughter of the king of the depths and among the last remaining creatures of her tribe.

The water princess took care of the prince for many days, until he was better. They fell in love with each other and took oaths for life. One day, Tomis returned to his ship and told the captain that he had decided to stay with the sirens and not to carry out the bloody mission of the King of the World. That very day, the storm broke again on the sea.

Scared that something could happen to her prince again, the mermaid came by the ship. Tomis wasn't on deck, but the captain was. When he saw her, the servant put his hand on a spear and struck the princess to death. It was just then



that the prince went up on the deck and saw the love of his life sinking into the depths, caught by the unseen clutches of death. He jumped after her and they both died.

It is said that the stormy sea took the name of the mermaid princess. Moreover, on the shore where the prince and princess fell in love, the locals raised a proud fortress, which they named Tomis.

The Legend of Mamaia Beach

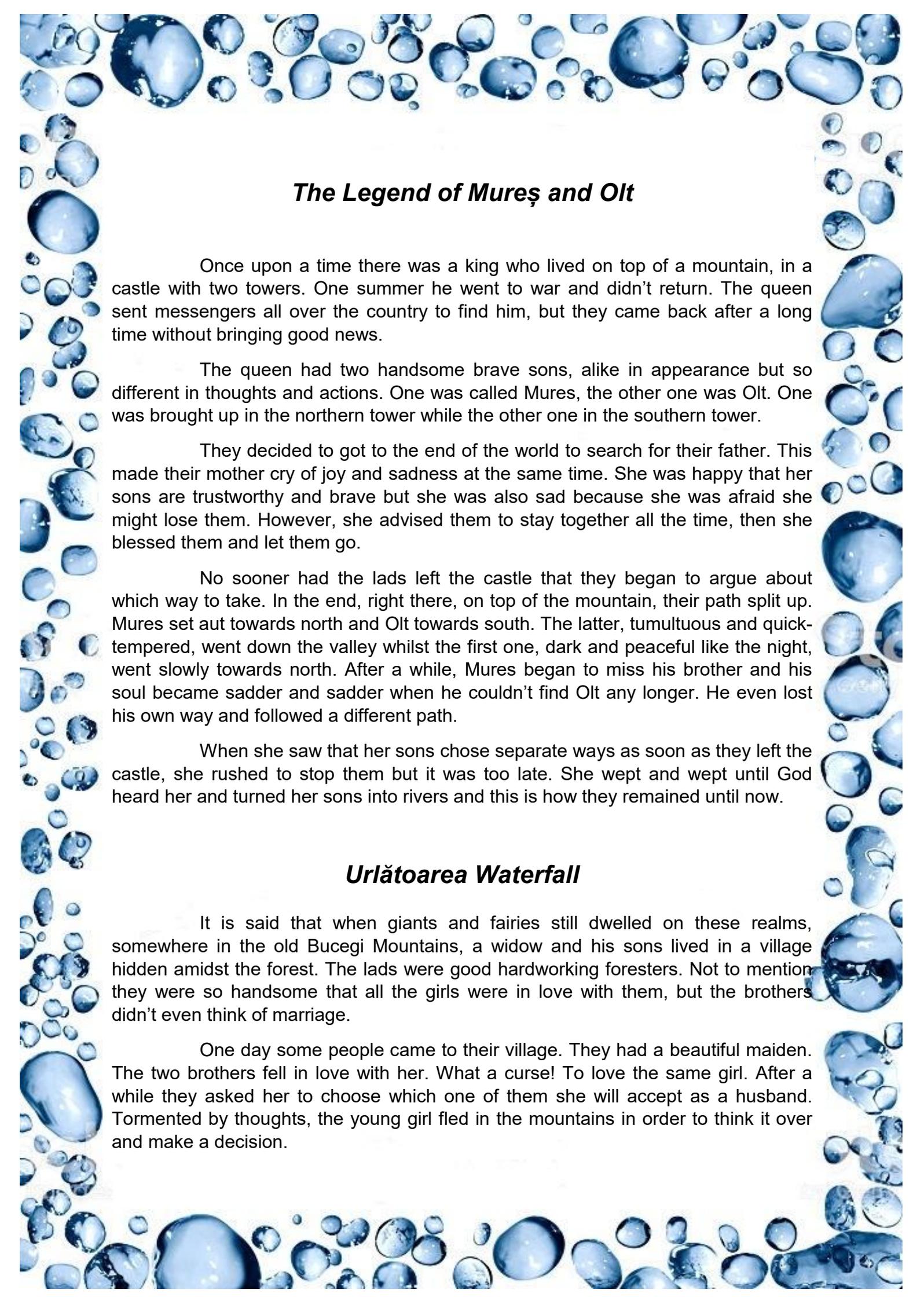
An interesting version of the legend regarding Mamaia beach takes us back in time when Dobrogea was still under Ottoman domination. The story says that in a village between the Danube and the Black Sea, lived a beautiful woman, Mamaia, the widow of a brave man that lost his life in a battle against the Turks. The woman lived with her daughter Constantina who was as beautiful as her mother.

As Mamaia had also fought against the empire, the pasha in Silistra decided to make her his slave and took her to his fortress by the Danube. The Pasha only heard about her bravery but as soon as he saw her, he fell in love with the woman. To protect her against the dangers of their time, he built her a wonderful house by the sea – the place where Mamaia resort lies today. The beach was different back then, the trees were growing in water and the sand surface was pretty narrow. Nearby you could see a rich village where both Romanians and Muslims lived peacefully. They respected and cherished both Mamaia and her daughter although they seemed always sad.

One day, when things settled down, the pasha sent soldiers to bring the woman to him. The soldiers found her alone on the beach, took her immediately to the boat and left the shore behind. Mamaia started to call for help and her daughter heard her cry. Constantina stepped into the water, trying to reach her mother, but the water was too deep. Realizing her daughter was about to drown, the woman began to pray, hoping God will save her child. And so he did – a wonder happened at once. A bridge of sand rose little by little under the girl's feet, getting her out of the sea and taking her away from danger. As Constantina kept running after the boat, the strip of sand grew larger and larger.

But God made another wonder. Mamaia suddenly disappeared. She didn't throw herself into the sea, she was turned into that bridge of sand that had saved Constantina's life. The Ottomans left empty handed and Constantina kept on living, married a worthy man and enjoyed a happy life near Mamaia beach.

This is how the beautiful beach, admired by everyone, was formed.



The Legend of Mureș and Olt

Once upon a time there was a king who lived on top of a mountain, in a castle with two towers. One summer he went to war and didn't return. The queen sent messengers all over the country to find him, but they came back after a long time without bringing good news.

The queen had two handsome brave sons, alike in appearance but so different in thoughts and actions. One was called Mures, the other one was Olt. One was brought up in the northern tower while the other one in the southern tower.

They decided to go to the end of the world to search for their father. This made their mother cry of joy and sadness at the same time. She was happy that her sons are trustworthy and brave but she was also sad because she was afraid she might lose them. However, she advised them to stay together all the time, then she blessed them and let them go.

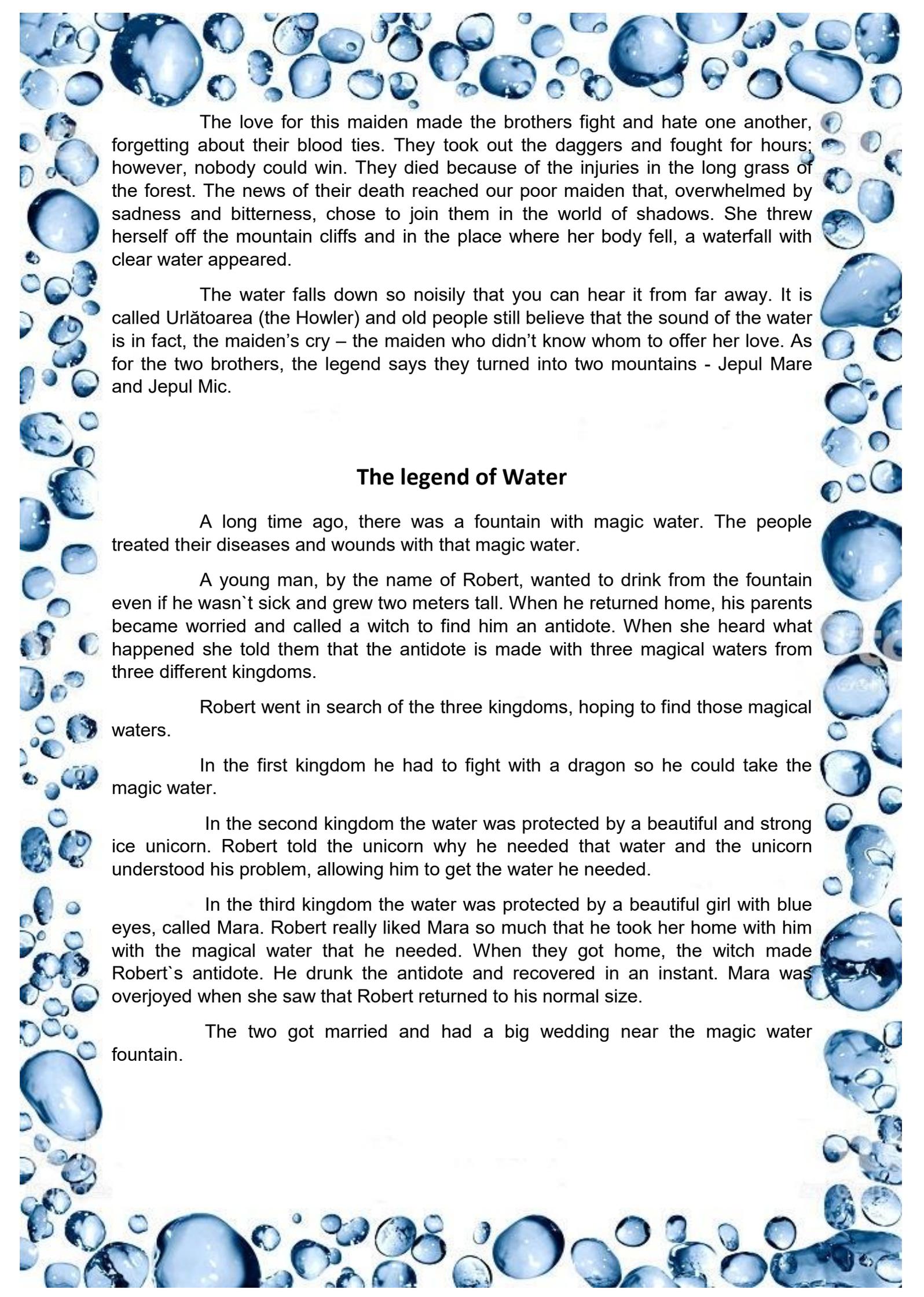
No sooner had the lads left the castle that they began to argue about which way to take. In the end, right there, on top of the mountain, their path split up. Mures set out towards north and Olt towards south. The latter, tumultuous and quick-tempered, went down the valley whilst the first one, dark and peaceful like the night, went slowly towards north. After a while, Mures began to miss his brother and his soul became sadder and sadder when he couldn't find Olt any longer. He even lost his own way and followed a different path.

When she saw that her sons chose separate ways as soon as they left the castle, she rushed to stop them but it was too late. She wept and wept until God heard her and turned her sons into rivers and this is how they remained until now.

Urlătoarea Waterfall

It is said that when giants and fairies still dwelled on these realms, somewhere in the old Bucegi Mountains, a widow and his sons lived in a village hidden amidst the forest. The lads were good hardworking foresters. Not to mention they were so handsome that all the girls were in love with them, but the brothers didn't even think of marriage.

One day some people came to their village. They had a beautiful maiden. The two brothers fell in love with her. What a curse! To love the same girl. After a while they asked her to choose which one of them she will accept as a husband. Tormented by thoughts, the young girl fled in the mountains in order to think it over and make a decision.



The love for this maiden made the brothers fight and hate one another, forgetting about their blood ties. They took out the daggers and fought for hours; however, nobody could win. They died because of the injuries in the long grass of the forest. The news of their death reached our poor maiden that, overwhelmed by sadness and bitterness, chose to join them in the world of shadows. She threw herself off the mountain cliffs and in the place where her body fell, a waterfall with clear water appeared.

The water falls down so noisily that you can hear it from far away. It is called Urlătoarea (the Howler) and old people still believe that the sound of the water is in fact, the maiden's cry – the maiden who didn't know whom to offer her love. As for the two brothers, the legend says they turned into two mountains - Jepul Mare and Jepul Mic.

The legend of Water

A long time ago, there was a fountain with magic water. The people treated their diseases and wounds with that magic water.

A young man, by the name of Robert, wanted to drink from the fountain even if he wasn't sick and grew two meters tall. When he returned home, his parents became worried and called a witch to find him an antidote. When she heard what happened she told them that the antidote is made with three magical waters from three different kingdoms.

Robert went in search of the three kingdoms, hoping to find those magical waters.

In the first kingdom he had to fight with a dragon so he could take the magic water.

In the second kingdom the water was protected by a beautiful and strong ice unicorn. Robert told the unicorn why he needed that water and the unicorn understood his problem, allowing him to get the water he needed.

In the third kingdom the water was protected by a beautiful girl with blue eyes, called Mara. Robert really liked Mara so much that he took her home with him with the magical water that he needed. When they got home, the witch made Robert's antidote. He drank the antidote and recovered in an instant. Mara was overjoyed when she saw that Robert returned to his normal size.

The two got married and had a big wedding near the magic water fountain.