



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

“ LET’S SHARE OUR CULTURE”

# THE LEGEND



*SCOALA PETRESTI*

*DAMBOVITA*

*Romania*

MARCH 2011

This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

## THE LEGEND OF THE CRAFTSMAN MANOLE

Long ago, about four centuries back, Negru Voda, the ruler of Romania, wanted to build a monastery in order to honour his good fortune. He wanted this monastery to be more beautiful than any other he had ever seen. For this he summoned the greatest craftsman in the country to make his dream come true. That craftsman was called Manole. He also employed other nine exceptional craftsmen to help Manole. All of them were very happy to help fulfil this dream.



One day, accompanied by the craftsmen, he went searching on the banks of the river Arges for the perfect place to build his monastery. But he didn't want an ordinary place; he was looking for the ruins of an ancient forsaken monastery – as it was an old custom that monasteries be built on previous holy ruins.

They were having a difficult time finding the place they wanted, when suddenly they saw a little boy caring for a flock of sheep. They stopped and asked him if he knew of any old walls in the vicinity. The little boy led them to some mouldy ruins hidden in a reedy field. They were all delighted to have found a good spot for the glorious monument. After Negru Voda gave his orders, and after the skilled workers did the measurements and prepared all the materials, they started laying the foundations.

But no matter how hard they all worked everything that was built by day collapsed by night. Pillars would yield; walls would tumble; and the craftsmen would have to do things over and over again. This went on for several days. No one could understand what was wrong. Seeing this, Negru Voda was very angry and threatened the craftsmen that he would bury them in the foundation.

**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

They worked all day long but the result was the same. This went on until one night Manole had a strange dream. In the morning he called his men and told them that he had received a divine message advising him to wall in the foundation the first wife or sister that would come the next morning bringing food to her husband or brother. With great grief they all made a pact to do exactly as the dream advised. But little did Manole know that the other craftsmen plotted to warn their wives not to come to the monastery.



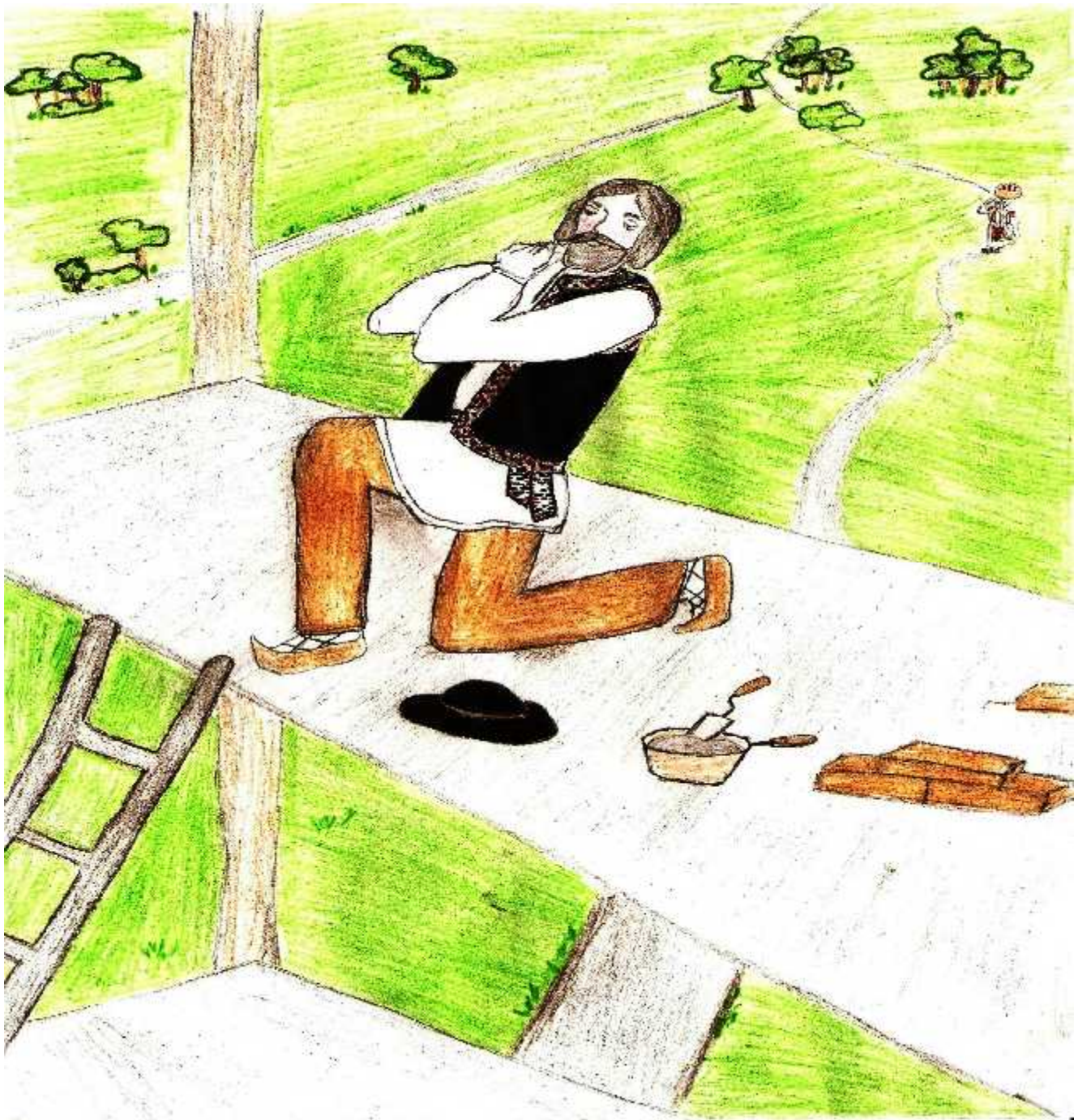
That morning when Manole woke up he climbed the scaffold to see which wife or sister would come first. After a long anguished wait, Manole in pain and distress, recognized his own wife—his dear Ana.

**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



He fell to his knees and implored God to stop her from coming. He asked God to start a pouring rain to make her go back home. God listened to his cries and gathered dark clouds and started a terrible rain. But this wasn't enough to stop her. She kept on coming.

**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



He then prayed for a strong wind to blow to stop everything in its way. But this didn't stop Ana either. She finally arrived at the monastery and with all the grief in his heart Manole had to keep his promise. They persuaded her to let them wall her as a joke.

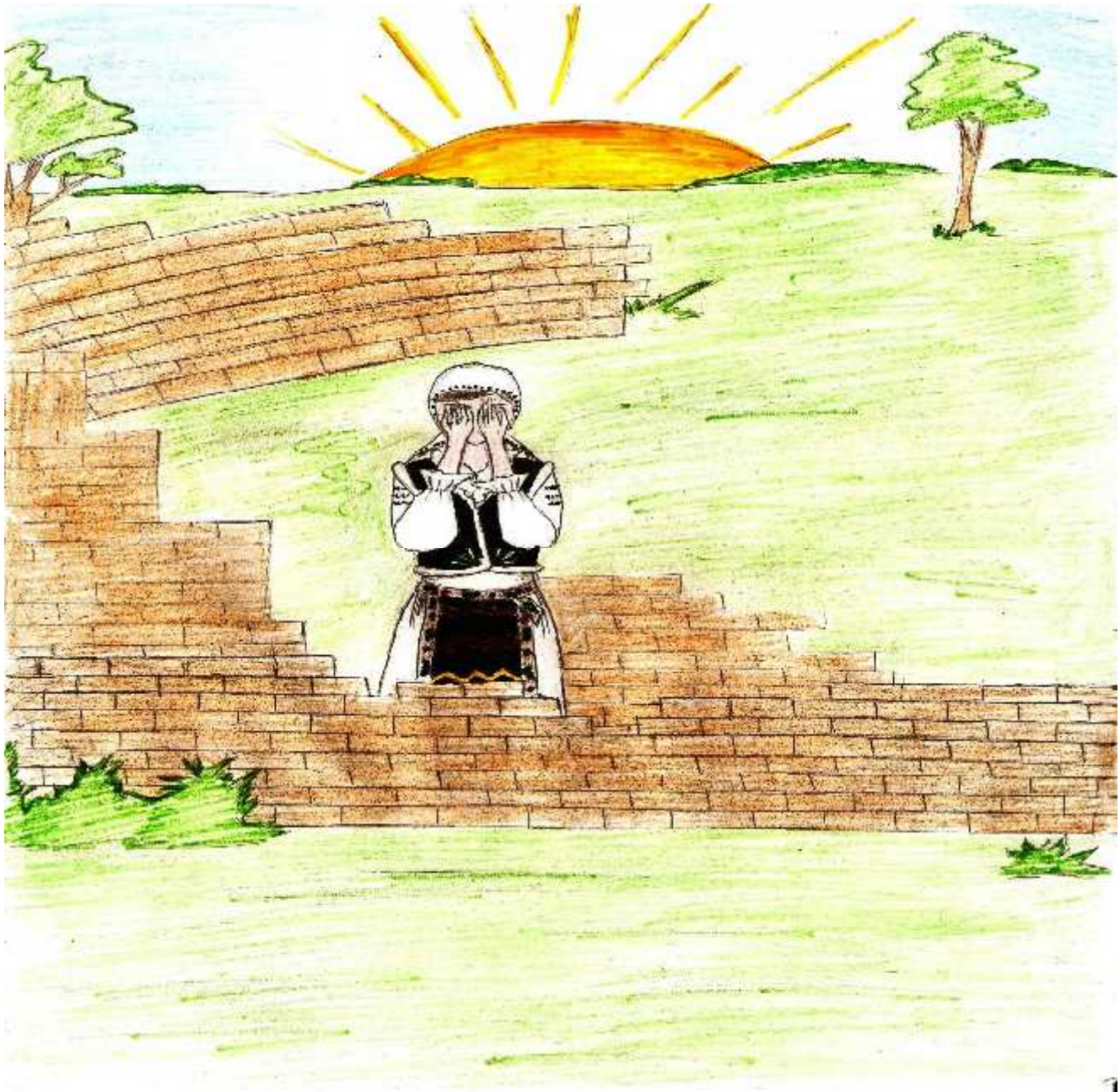
**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

At first she laughed, but as the wall was getting higher she started to worry and begged Manole to stop joking. She started crying as the wall was too tight and was crushing her body and their unborn child.



The craftsmen worked quick and soon Ana could no longer be seen... only her cry could be heard from the walls... After accomplishing this horrible sacrifice, the building started to take shape and slowly but steadily became an incredibly beautiful monument.

**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

One day, while the craftsmen were hammering in the last nails on the roof, Negru Voda and his men came to see how the work was going. In great amazement they saw the wonderful structure they had build. It was apparently completed and everyone was deeply impressed by its peacefulness. The columns, the cornices, everything was harmonious, and this church was certainly more beautiful than any they had seen before.



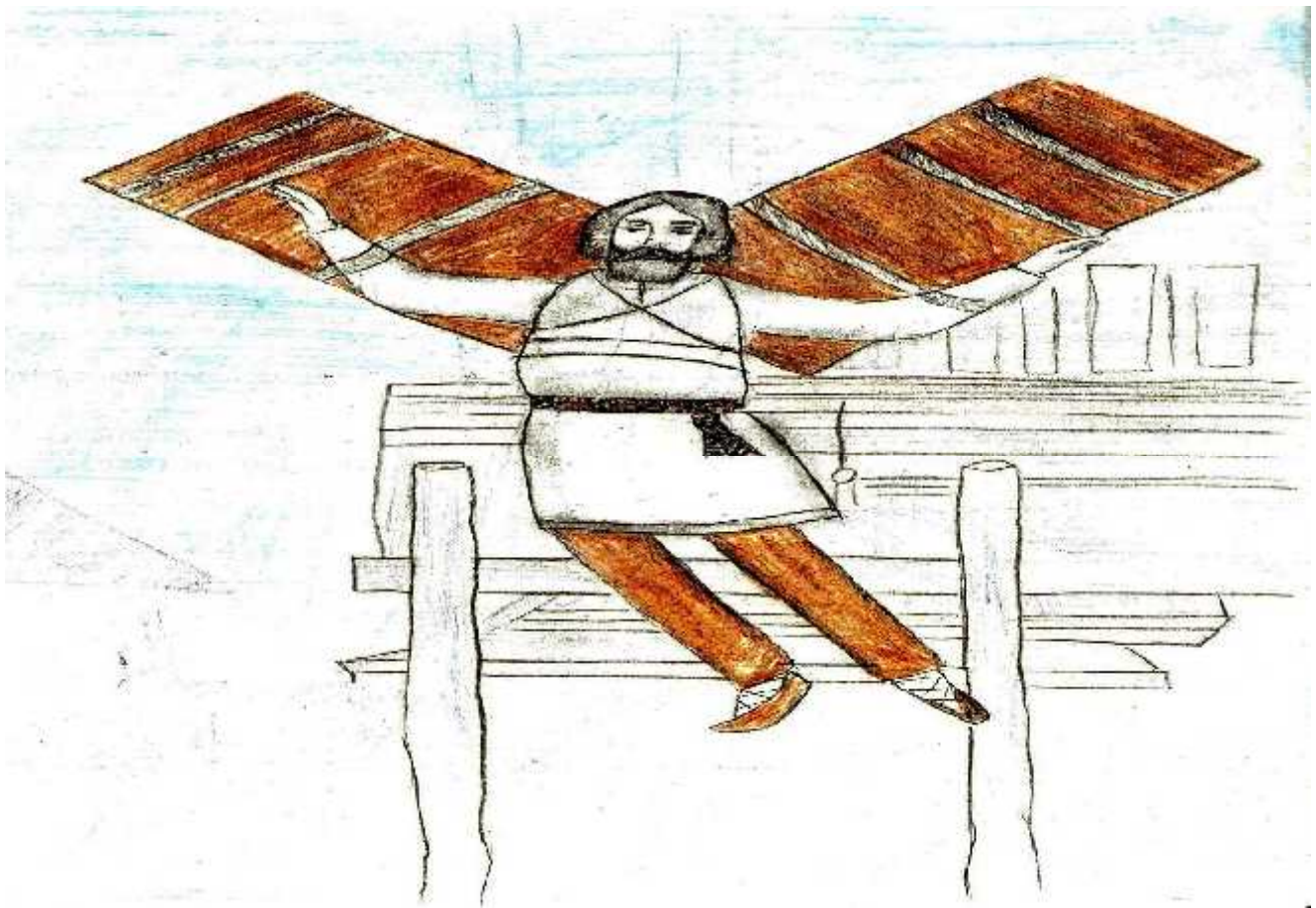
**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

Negru Voda couldn't stop smiling and starrng at the monastery. After a while he asked the men if they could ever build a greater monastery than this. The men proudly answered that there were no greater craftsmen in all the land and that they could build a far more beautiful than this one. But this answer didn't please the ruler. He wanted this monastery to be the greatest in all the country, so he ordered his men to take down the ladders and the scaffolds leaving the craftsmen to their death, isolated on the roof of the monastery. In their desperate try to get back on the ground, the nine craftsmen constructed wings out of thin planks, fastened them to their arms and tried to fly off the roof. But, the wings couldn't save them for their terrible death, their bodies crashing on the impact with the ground.



Manole, who remained alone on the roof, also tried to use wooden wings in order to fly to safety. But as he was preparing to jump he heard the cries of his beloved Ana. His heart filled with grief and he fell to his death at the base of the monastery.

**This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project**





Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

In the place where he fell, a spring of salty water spouted representing the tears of Manole and Ana... there a fountain was built.



This booklet is a part of an activity of the Comenius project