

# Digenis and the Gargantuan Crab

a medieval myth from Cyprus

Once upon a time "Kavouras", a gigantic crab, was born inside a reedbed. Kavouras, who was powerful and destructive, would attack the peasants who came to the river for water and scared off the farmers who tried to plough the fields.

Kavouras is scaring our families away. We need to do something.

We are the bravest villagers of the country. Let's get rid of him.

We must set up an ambush. When Kavouras emerges from inside the reeds, we will draw our swords and cut off his path.

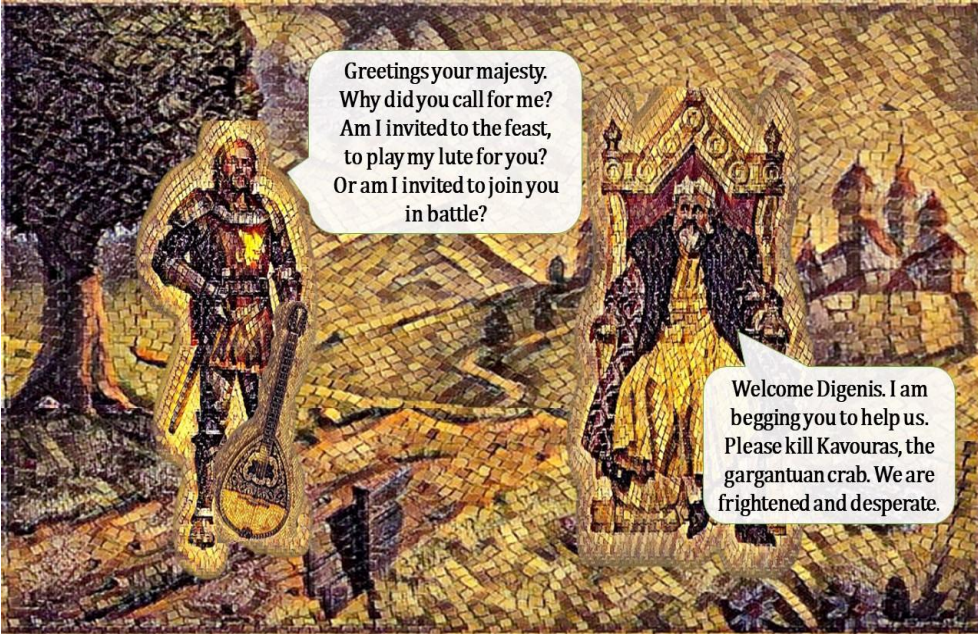
There he is, charging at us. My God, he is big. His claws are enormous.

Let's run away, before he devours us.

I am carrying an urgent message from our king. He is inviting the hero *Digenis Akritas*, to the palace.

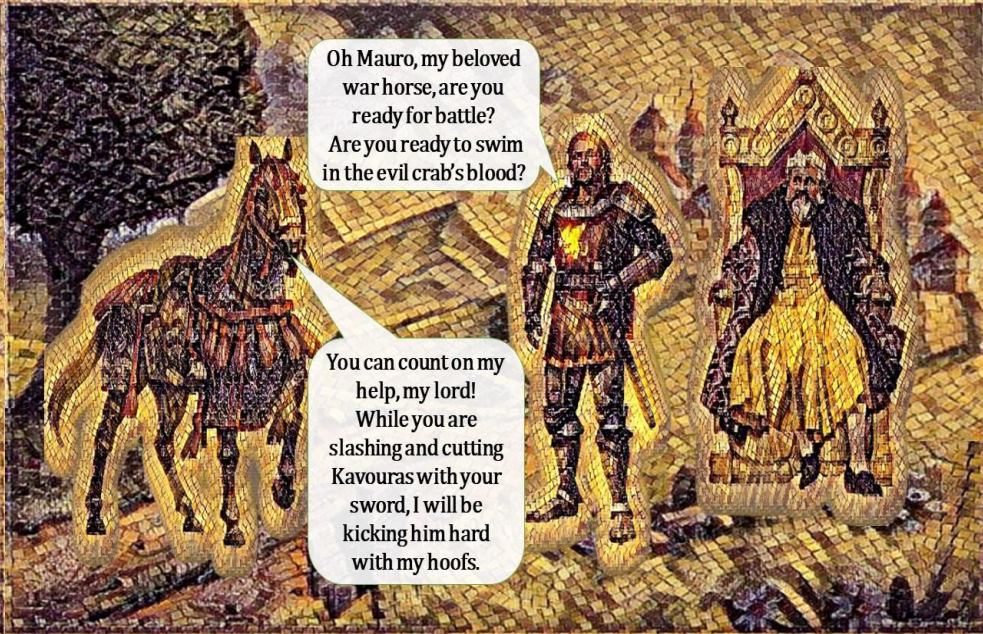
The king was desperate, so he sent his fastest rider on a mission to a distant outpost...





Greetings your majesty. Why did you call for me? Am I invited to the feast, to play my lute for you? Or am I invited to join you in battle?

Welcome Digenis. I am begging you to help us. Please kill Kavouras, the gargantuan crab. We are frightened and desperate.



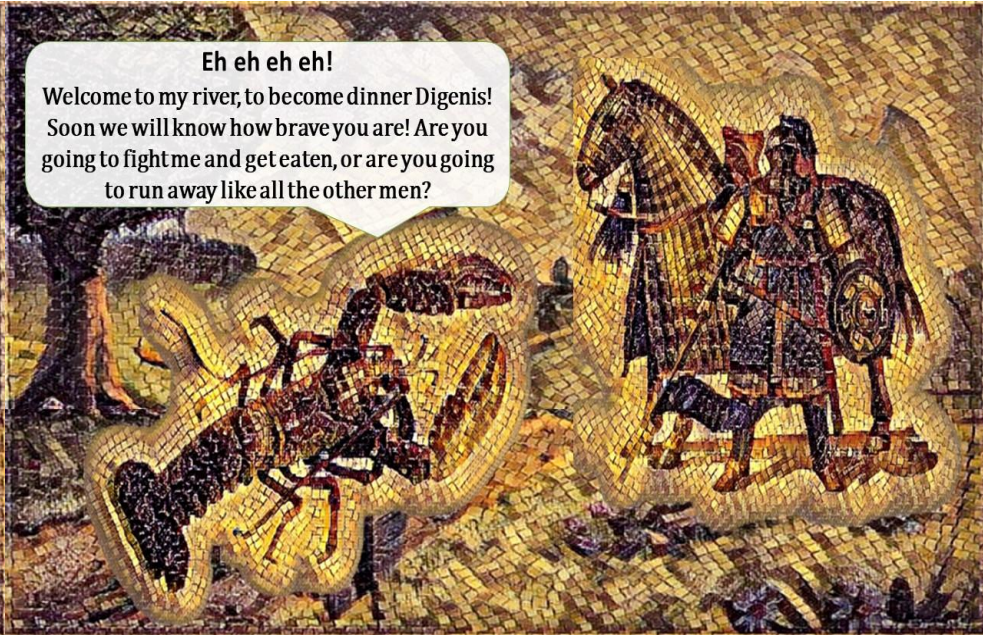
Oh Mauro, my beloved war horse, are you ready for battle? Are you ready to swim in the evil crab's blood?

You can count on my help, my lord! While you are slashing and cutting Kavouras with your sword, I will be kicking him hard with my hoofs.



Digenis and his horse arrived at the swamp where Kavouras had his lair!

Stand aside Kavouras! I am not afraid of you!



Eh eh eh eh! Welcome to my river, to become dinner Digenis! Soon we will know how brave you are! Are you going to fight me and get eaten, or are you going to run away like all the other men?



The fight begun in the plateau nearby. Whenever Digenis hit, you could hear the crab's shell crack. Where Kavouras bit, the hero's blood gushed with a jet!

*It's fight time!*

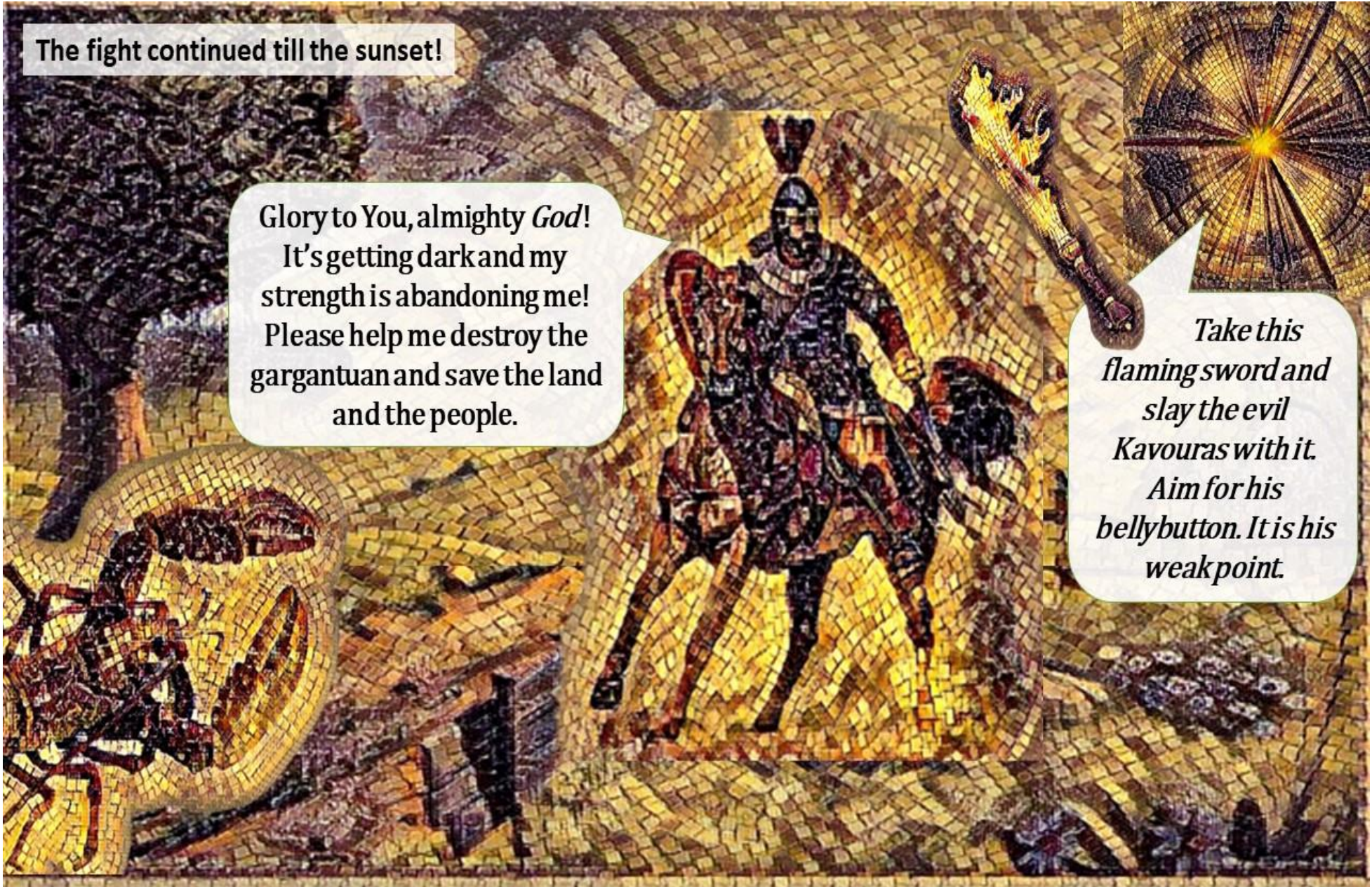
*Eh eh eh eh!  
It's dinner time!*



The fight continued till the sunset!

Glory to You, almighty *God!*  
It's getting dark and my strength is abandoning me!  
Please help me destroy the gargantuan and save the land and the people.

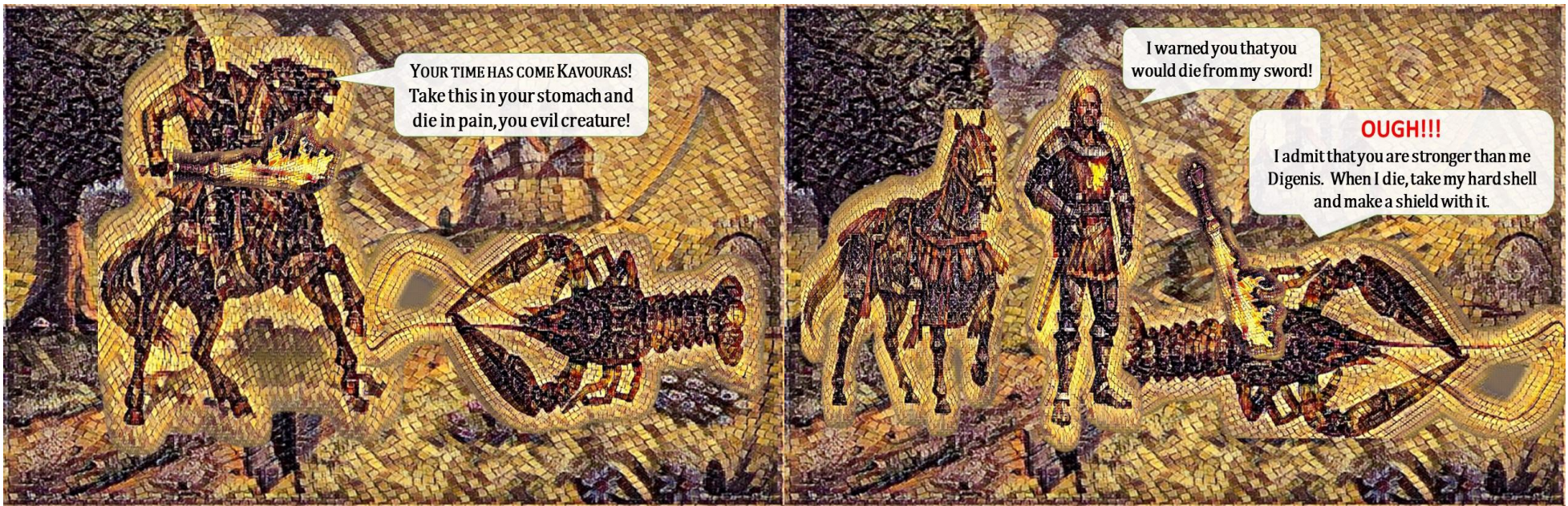
Take this flaming sword and slay the evil Kavouras with it.  
Aim for his bellybutton. It is his weakpoint.



YOUR TIME HAS COME KAVOURAS!  
Take this in your stomach and die in pain, you evil creature!

I warned you that you would die from my sword!

**OUGH!!!**  
I admit that you are stronger than me Digenis. When I die, take my hard shell and make a shield with it.



The heroic Digenis had once again saved the Byzantine Empire from danger. The people were grateful.

Congratulations Digenis! Thank you for saving our city! We will organize a three-day and three-night feast to honor you!

Long live Digenis!

Long live the heroic Digenis, the protector of the people!

a story presented as a comic strip by class E1 Polemi Public Primary School

