

# The Legend of the Parákata

Story and illustrations by  
Adriana Fernández Escutia  
Based on a Mexican legend





Once upon a time, there was a group of indigenous people living in the Rocky Mountains. The winters were extremely cold there. They decided to travel south in search of a warmer place to live.



Halfway through the trip, the children and elders became very weak and tired, and the leaders knew they would not be able to resist the long and difficult trip. The leaders decided it would be better for the children and elders to stay behind.



The leaders continued their journey and prayed to their god, Nana Cutzi, the moon goddess, to take care of the children and elders.



One night, the children and elders covered themselves with pollen and resin to keep warm. Nana Cutzi saw them from the sky and felt very sorry for them. She wanted to help them!



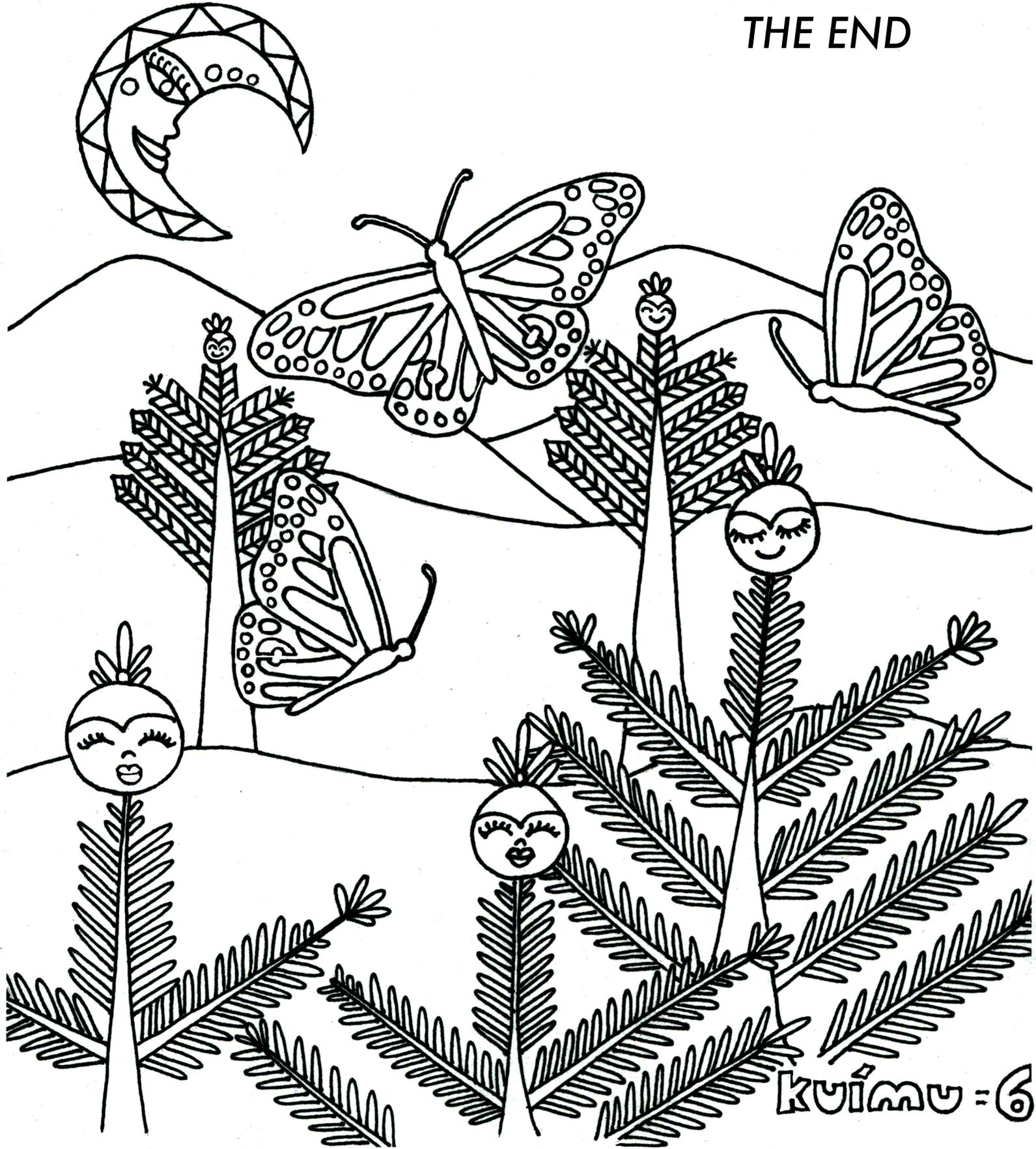
T'amu=4

Nana Cutzi used her powers to turn the children and elders into monarch butterflies so that they could fly and reach their family members faster. She named them, "The Parákata."



The Parákata followed their hearts, which led them to Michoacán, México. There, in the sacred fir trees, they found their loved ones with arms wide open.

THE END



kuímu = 6

## Glossary

---

- **Nana Cutzi:** The traditional Purépecha religion has many gods. Nana Cutzi is the goddess known as the curved mother, or the Moon.
- **Numbers in Purépecha:**
  - 1 = Ma
  - 2 = Tsimani
  - 3 = tanímu
  - 4 = T'amu
  - 5 = iúmu
  - 6 = kuímu
  - 7 = iúmu Tsimani
  - 8 = iúmu tanímu
  - 9 = iúmu T'amu
  - 10 = témbeni
- **Parákata:** Word that means “butterfly” in the Purépecha language
- **Purépecha:** Name of the native peoples of Michoacán, México. They speak the Purépecha language.

### Sources:

Loria, Carla. “Cultura Purépecha. P'orhépecho o Purhépecherhu.” Es.slideshare.net. [https://es.slideshare.net/Carla\\_Loria/cultura-purepecha-17140883](https://es.slideshare.net/Carla_Loria/cultura-purepecha-17140883) (accessed July 12, 2017).  
“Leyendas Michoacanas.” Biuescribe.files.wordpress.com. <https://biuescribe.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/leyendas-michoacanas-por-pablo-eduardo-ruiz.pdf> (accessed June 26, 2017).  
Más de Mx. “Conoce la leyenda purépecha que predijo la llegada de los españoles.” Masdemx.com. <http://masdemx.com/2016/06/conoce-la-leyenda-purepecha-que-predijo-la-llegada-de-los-espanoles/> (accessed June 26, 2017).

**Contact information: Adriana Fernández, [ms.adriana.fernandez@gmail.com](mailto:ms.adriana.fernandez@gmail.com)**

