

## Queens of Shakrain

Queens of Shakrain is a story about the historic kite festival which takes place in Old Dhaka in the mid-winter. The residents of Old Dhaka open up their roofs to everyone and the sky fills up with colourful kites and fireworks. The story follows a girl who dreams of becoming a Queen of Shakrain.





Queens of Shakrain  
HerStory Foundation

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# Let's Read



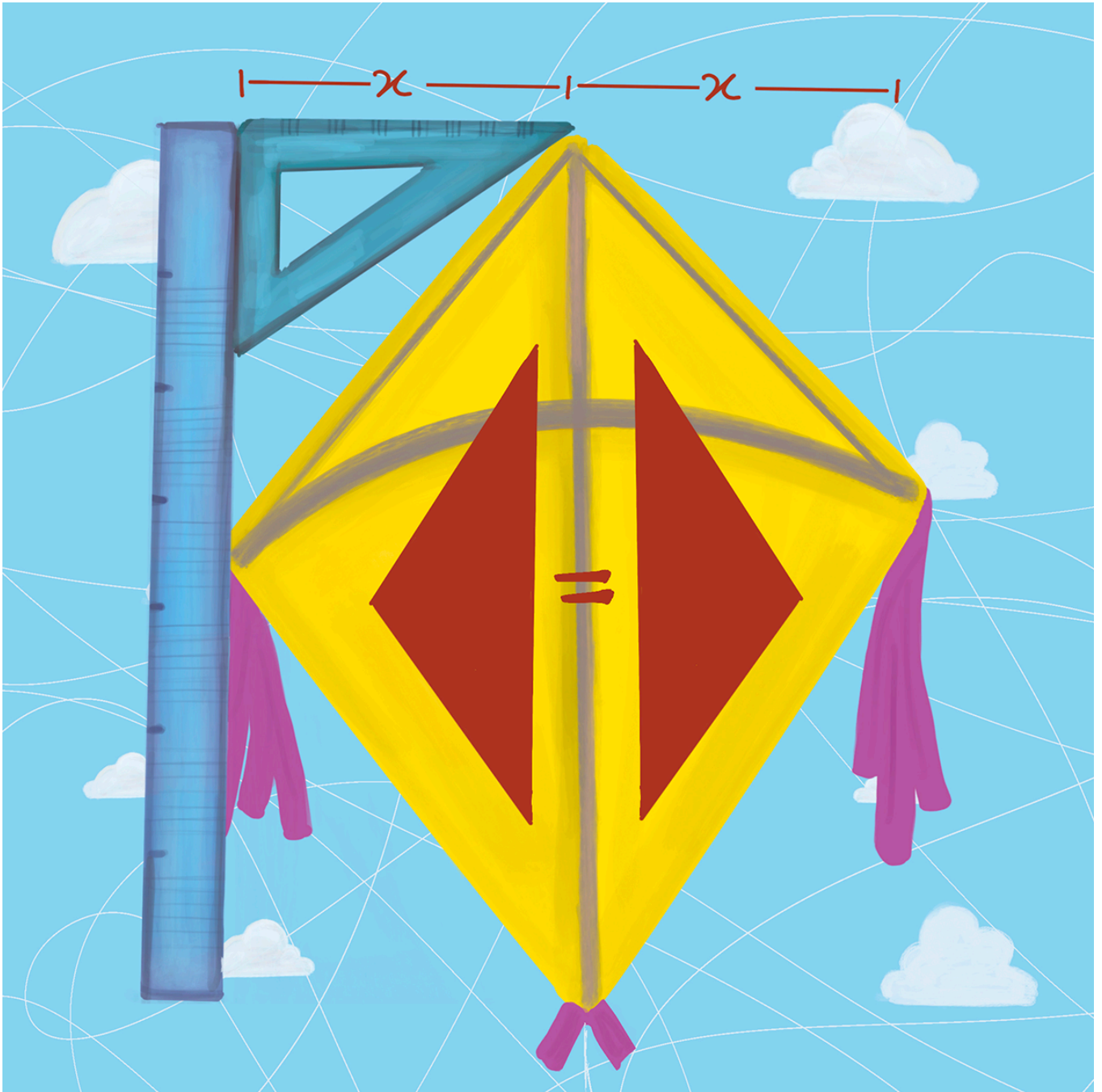
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I have a BIG blister on my right hand which I am very proud of. I earned it flying my kite. I have been practicing catching the wind for weeks and weeks because this year I am going to fly on Shakraim.



The sky on Shakrain is like nothing else in the whole wide world. It is busy with colorful paper ghuris fighting and dancing, gigantic dhaushes that dip and dive like hunting birds, and chongs that look like spaceships. On Shakrain, all the rooftops of Old Dhaka are open. This year, I will go up to the top. This year, I will no longer have to run the streets chasing fallen kites.



There are three rules to making a good kite. **RULE NUMBER ONE:**The left side of the kite should be exactly like the right side in every way. So in making my kite, I measure very carefully.



**RULE NUMBER TWO:** The kite should be as light as possible, so the wind can lift it into the air. So, in making my kite, I use the lightest wood and paper.

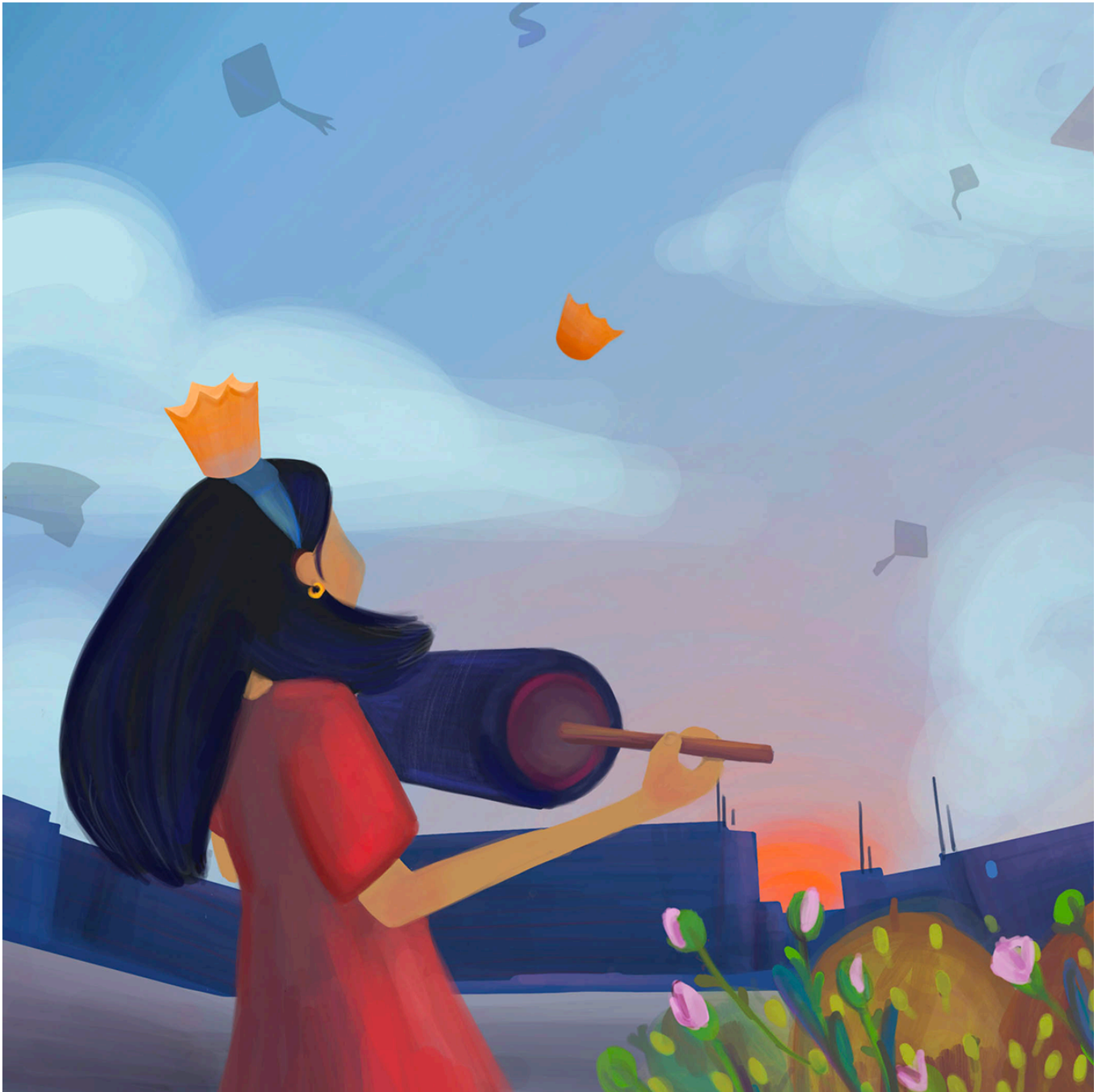




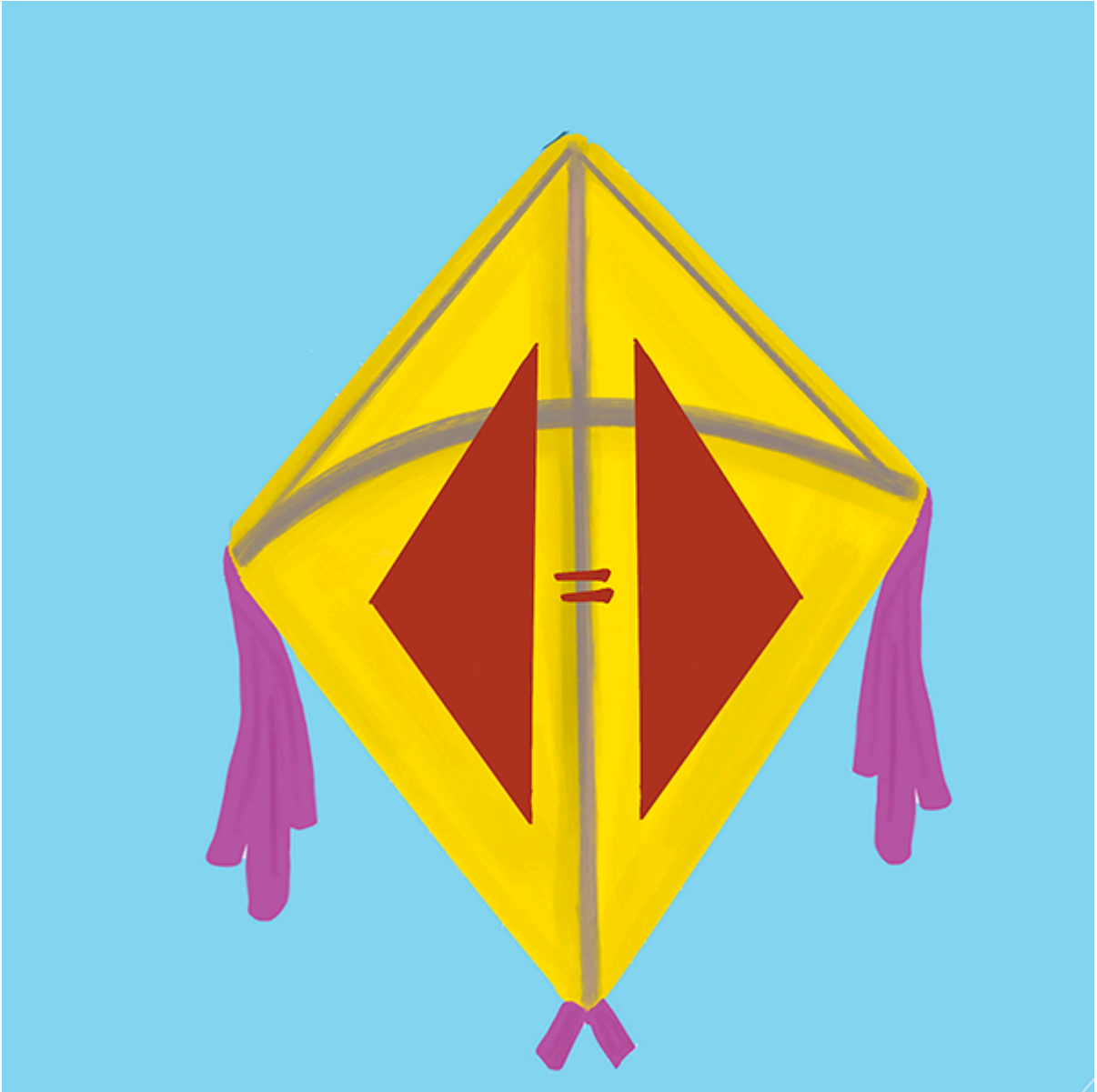
**RULE NUMBER THREE:** You must run fast. And cheer the kite on so that it goes higher and higher and higher!



I am ready! I drew a picture of my Apu on my kite. So when it soars, so does she. Together, we will be the Queens of Shakrain.



NoteShakrain, the festival of kites, is celebrated in Old Dhaka every year at the end of the winter month of Poush, or in mid-January. All of the rooftops of the old city welcome guests to fly kites, enjoy the views, and dance. When the sky turns dark, the flame breathers and the fireworks begin. The sky of Shakrain is full of color, surprise, and joy.



Wonderful Words  
Ghuri - a simple diamond-shaped kite made of paper  
Dhaush - a kite with a big windspan and a shape resembling a hawk  
Chong - a rhombus-curved kite

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Contributing translators: Farah Rachmat and Anindya Prima Pangestika