

If I Could...

by ZoRe
illustrated by Elena Agarwal



Once upon a time, there was a small,
cabbage-shaped cloud floating in the deep,
blue, shining sky! The little cloud was full of fantasy;
she had so many dreams and desires.



“Oh, if only I could be above the peak of the Himalayas,
or even higher than great mountains.

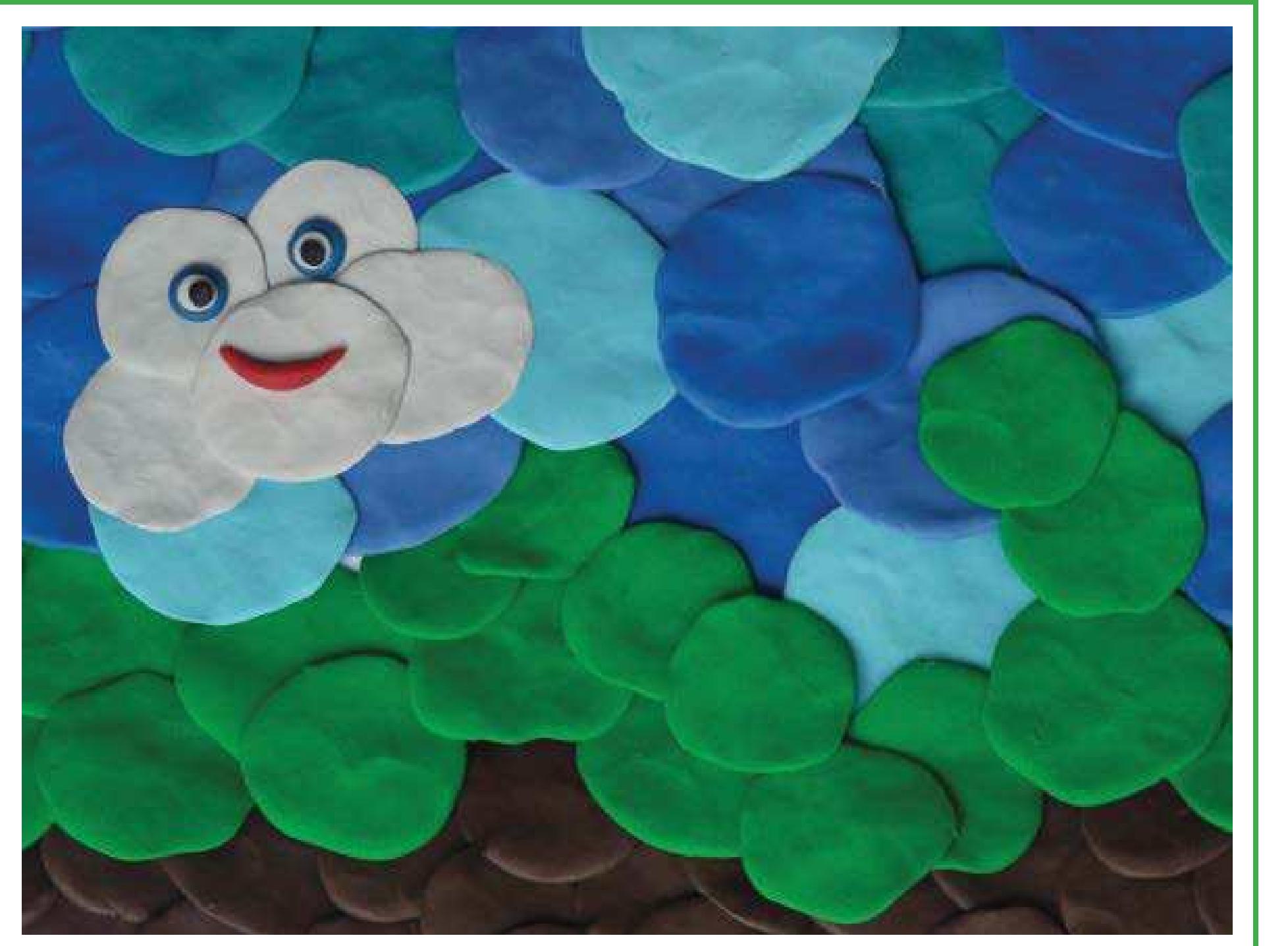
I would like to see beautiful rocks and shiny snow,
while floating above the mountain,” she said.

She had an amazing experience while watching birds and flying
here and there...

After a while, she spotted a nicely built nest
where a beautifully colored eagle
was sitting with her chicks.

The mommy eagle welcomed her,
and taught the little cloud
how to put her attention inside,
listening to Mother Nirmala,
the mother of the Himalayas.





The little cloud put her attention inside,
and soon felt a cool breeze
dancing on top of her head
and all around her body!

Before her first dream even ended,
a second dream had already begun.
“Oh, if only I could be above a forest,
I could watch so many animals living together,
trees breathing, streams running” she said.
Then, she quickly moved to such a place.





In no time, she floated above a beautiful forest.
She saw a very cool and shiny stream.
Through the transparent blue waters,
she saw many turtles and fish playing together
bobbing up and down
The little cloud wished to play with them.



One of the wise turtles saw her and popped its head out of the stream.
“It’s good for you to feel joy in your heart so that we can be there to play with you!” he said.

She did what the wise turtle advised, and she truly began to feel the joy!



Before this second dream ended,
a third dream had begun.
“Oh, if I could be above a city,
where people take cars to work,” said the little cloud.





“I could watch children playing, shouting,
and laughing from above the rooftops.”

The little cloud floated over to a big, busy city
where she could see all the people and their children.



Suddenly, she felt that she was losing
all the lovely coolness in her body and above her head.

Instead of the joy in her heart,
she felt the sadness of the city people
and she even saw some black smoke
rising up towards her.

The little cloud began to worry...
Then, at that very moment, as if to protect her,
the sun magically rose in the sky like a big, yellow ball.



She began to dream once more and said,
“Oh, if I could play with this amazing,
round thing full of light,
maybe, I would forget all my sadness...”



She hadn't even finished her dream,
when she suddenly began to feel smaller and smaller...



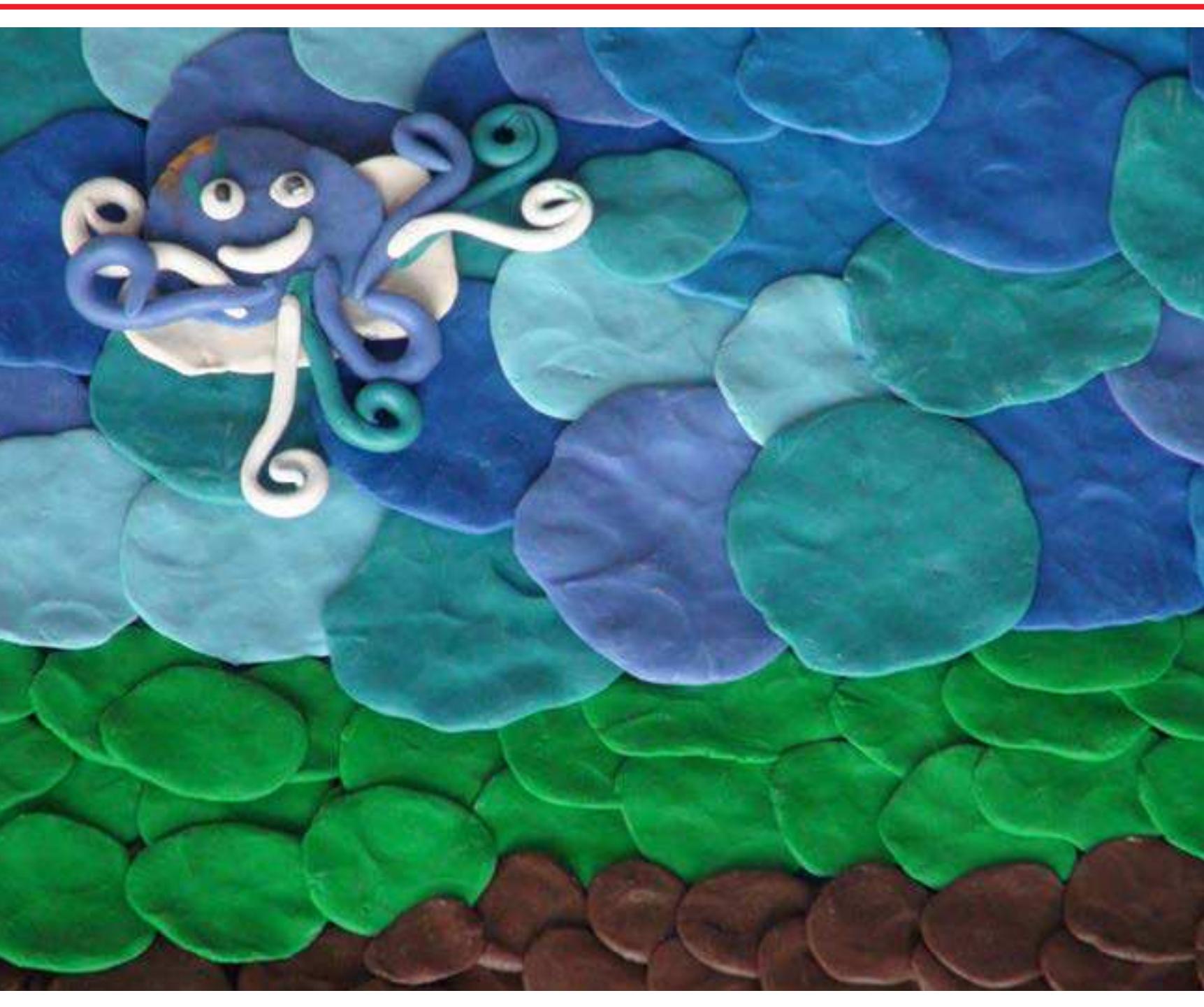
At that moment, the little cloud understood
that without the help of other clouds,
she could be split apart into many little drops of water
and bubbles of gas, flying here and there,
and be wasted in the air.

She cried, “Oh, Mr. Sun, you are the only friend
I have here! Please help me!”

At that moment, the Sun asked his old friend, Mr. Wind for help.

"Mr. Wind, please, push all the clouds closer to this little cloud."

Mr. Wind started a great movement and churned up the sky!





With the help of Mr. Wind,
all the clouds gathered in one place
to help the little cloud.
“Oh, dearest one, don’t worry.
We’ll help you! We are your family and friends!” they said.



Since she was so happy to meet all the other clouds,
the lonely, little cloud shared all her remaining
cool breeze with her newfound family and friends.
In return, they gave her all their strength and love.

Together, the little cloud and her family's joy
transformed into a cool, loving rain.

The refreshing rain fell on the heads of people down below,
and gave them the joy that she felt from this
new experience of uniting with others.

Being with the other clouds,
she felt strong and brave.

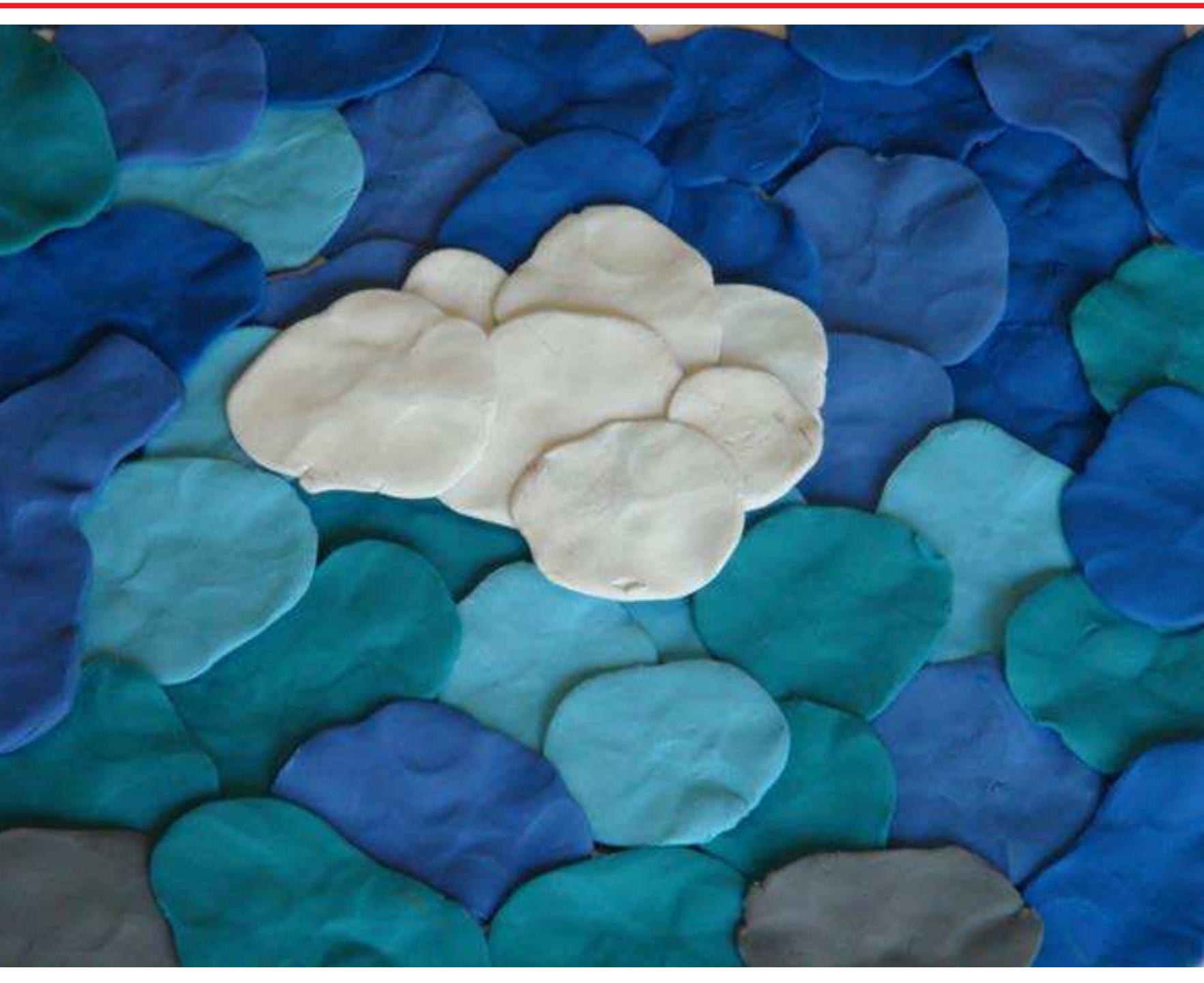




“From now on, no matter where I am,
we will always be together!”
she said with great happiness.

The little cloud has a message for you, too!

"If you happen to see a small,
lonely cloud lost in the sky,
please, draw a path with your finger,
and guide her to the other clouds..."





“Then, feel the thanks and love in your heart from the lovely,
cool breeze

that the little cloud sends you!”

The breeze of her love is always there
waiting for you to share it with others!

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