



*The world explained
in myths and legends*

A polish story CREATION OF THE WORLD



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In the beginning there was the Light, Sea and the god Świątowit, circling the world as a swan. He felt very lonely.



One day he saw his shadow on the surface of the water. So he decided to separate the shadow from the body. That's how two other gods, Swaróg and Weles, came into being.



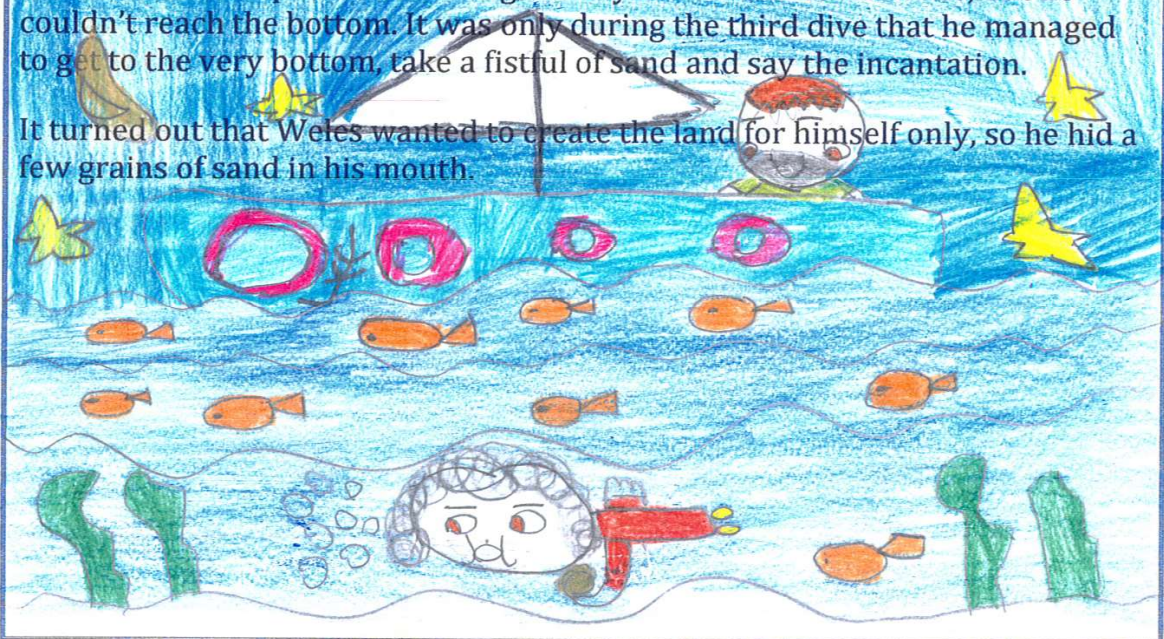
Swaróg made a boat from the Light and made it his home, floating on the waves.

Weles dived deep into the sea and spent most of the time in its depth.

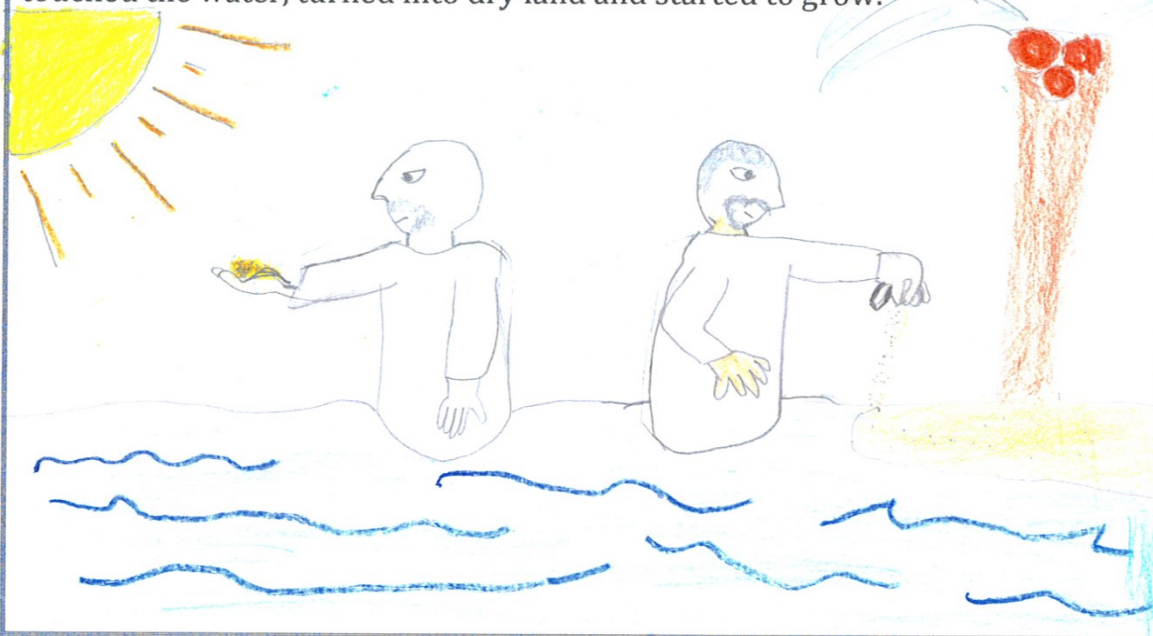


However, both gods got bored with the monotony of the sea and decided to create the land. Swaróg talked Weles into diving to the very bottom and bringing some sand. While picking the sand, he was supposed to say the magic words: "With the power of Swaróg and myself". Weles dived twice, but he couldn't reach the bottom. It was only during the third dive that he managed to get to the very bottom, take a fistful of sand and say the incantation.

It turned out that Weles wanted to create the land for himself only, so he hid a few grains of sand in his mouth.



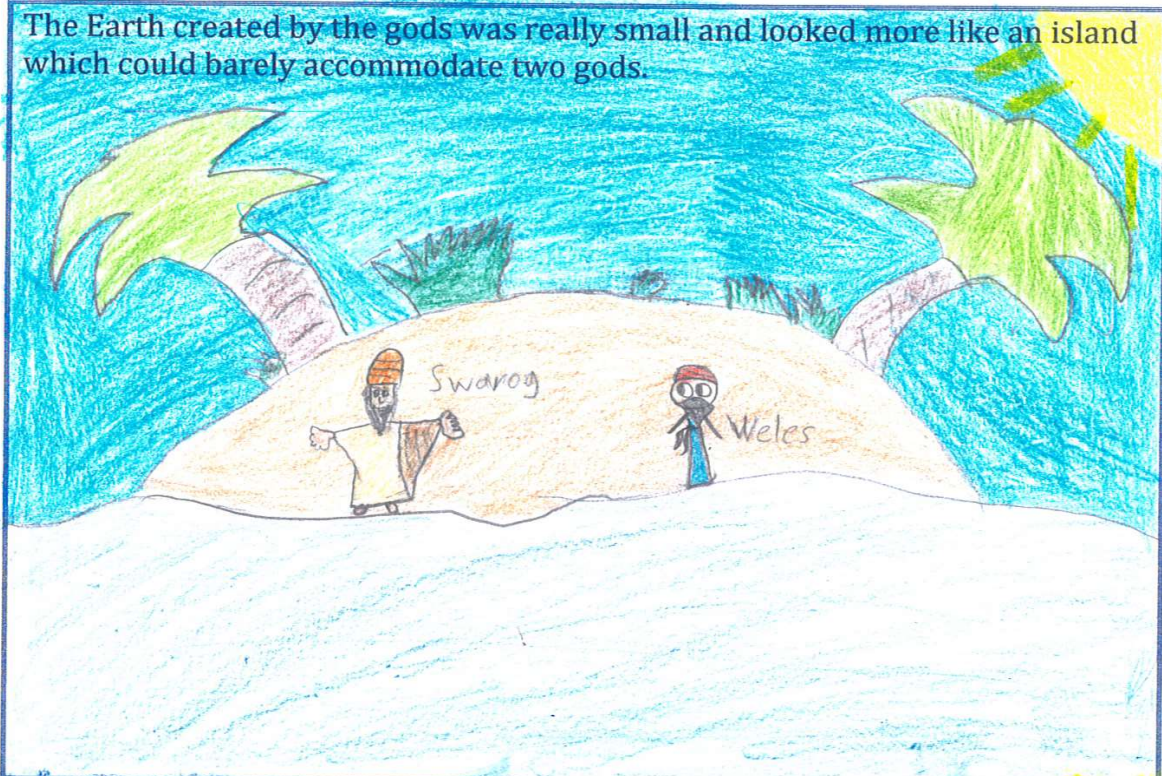
As soon as Weles got out of the water, Swaróg took a few grains from his hand and scattered them over the surface of the water. The sand, as soon as it had touched the water, turned into dry land and started to grow.



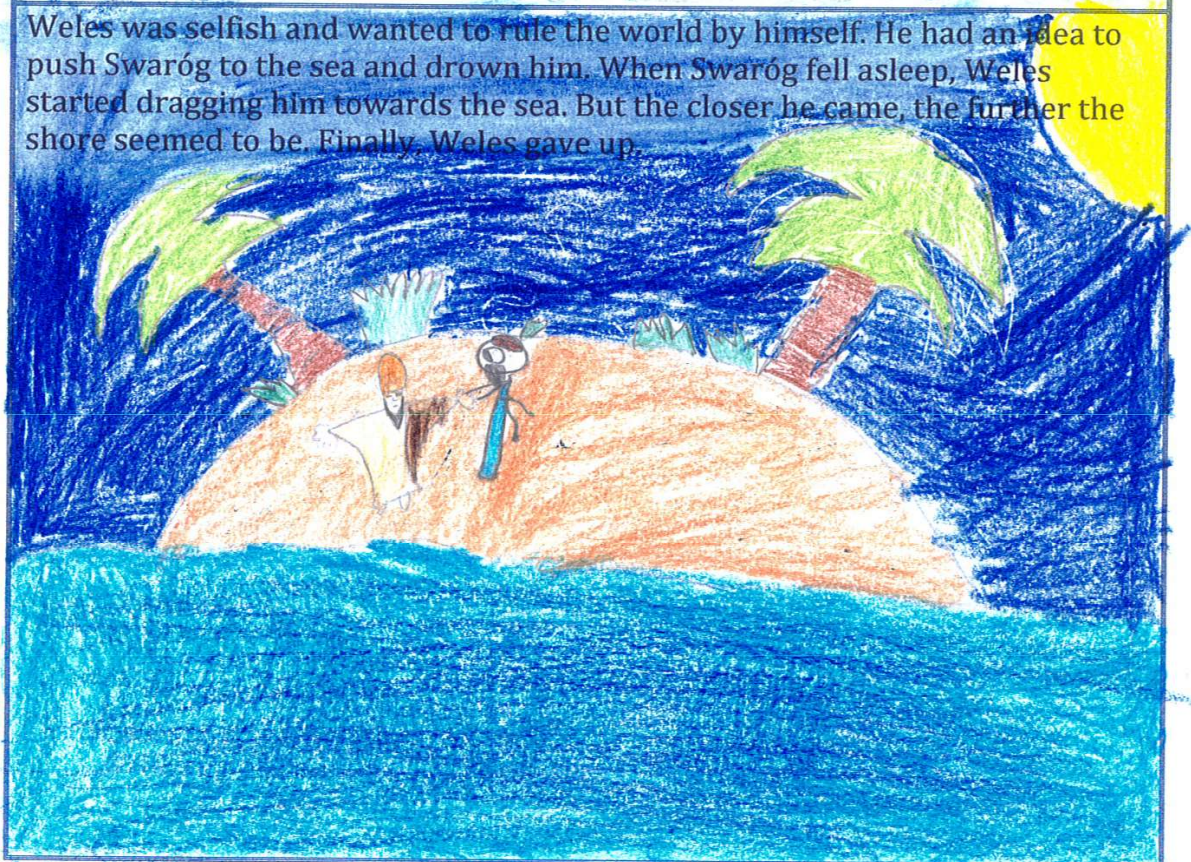
But the grains in the mouth of Weles started to grow, too and Weles had to spit them out. Wherever he spat, mountains sprang out.



The Earth created by the gods was really small and looked more like an island which could barely accommodate two gods.



Weles was selfish and wanted to rule the world by himself. He had an idea to push Swarog to the sea and drown him. When Swarog fell asleep, Weles started dragging him towards the sea. But the closer he came, the further the shore seemed to be. Finally, Weles gave up.



Swaróg woke up and saw that the area of dry land was now much larger. Both gods were happy now, but Swaróg soon started worrying that the sky would now be too small. Weles, however, did not worry at all.



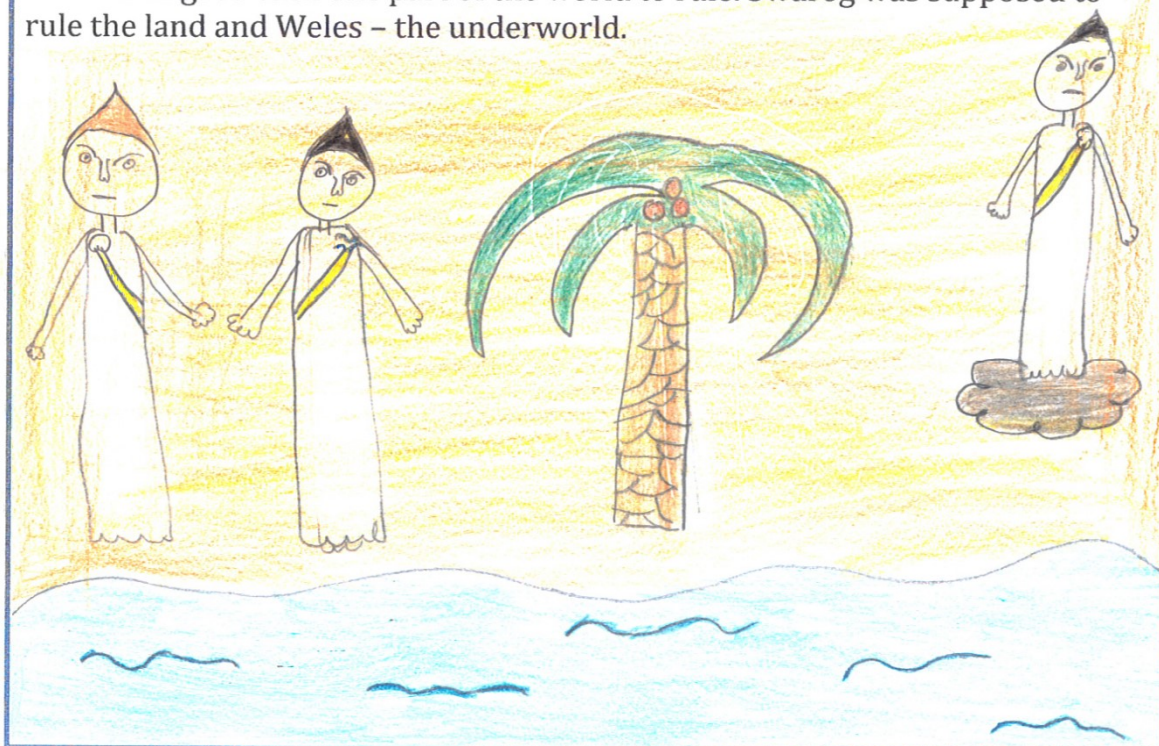
Swaróg got suspicious and thought that Weles might be hiding something from him. He created a bee and sent it out as his spy. The bee sat on the shoulder of Weles and followed his every move. Weles, meanwhile, created a goat from the sea waves and started to talk to the animal. He laughed at the silly god Swaróg, who was unable to stop the world from growing. He told the goat that it was enough to take a stick and mark all four sides of the world and it would help immediately.



When the bee came back to Swarog and told him all about it, he made a stick of waves and light, marked all sides of the world with it and said: "That's enough". The world stopped growing and became more or less as we have it now.



The gods looked at each other and started quarrelling about who was supposed to rule. That was too much for Świątowit. He called Swaróg and Weles and gave each one part of the world to rule. Swaróg was supposed to rule the land and Weles – the underworld.



This is how the division was made and Weles got Nawia, the place where he could dwell with the souls of the dead. Swaróg, on the other hand, became the god of fire, sun and earth.

