



Is That a Ghost?

Ronnie hears scary sounds at night. What could it be? Will Ronnie be able to face his fear?

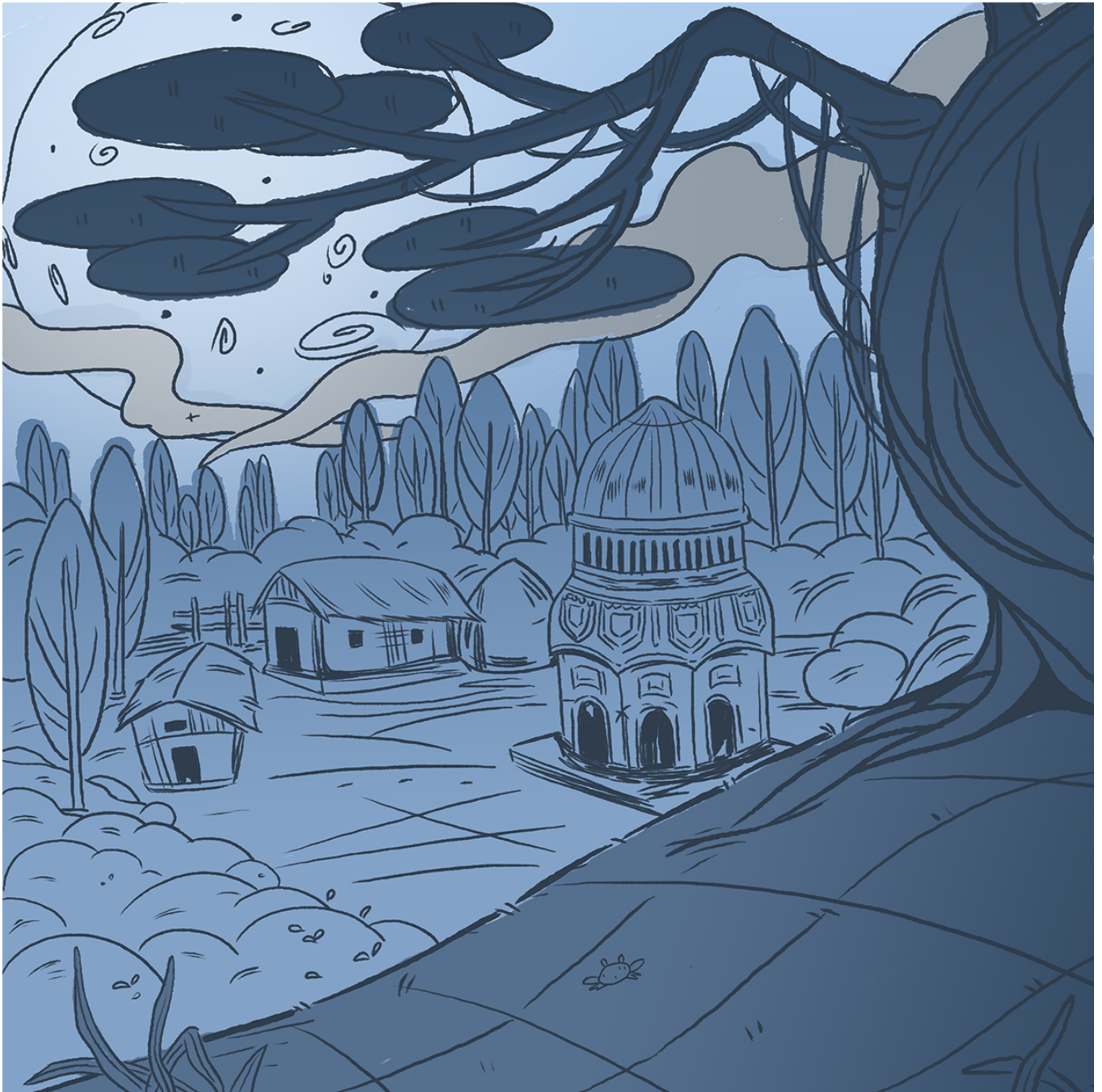


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Nurul Ambia Chowdhury

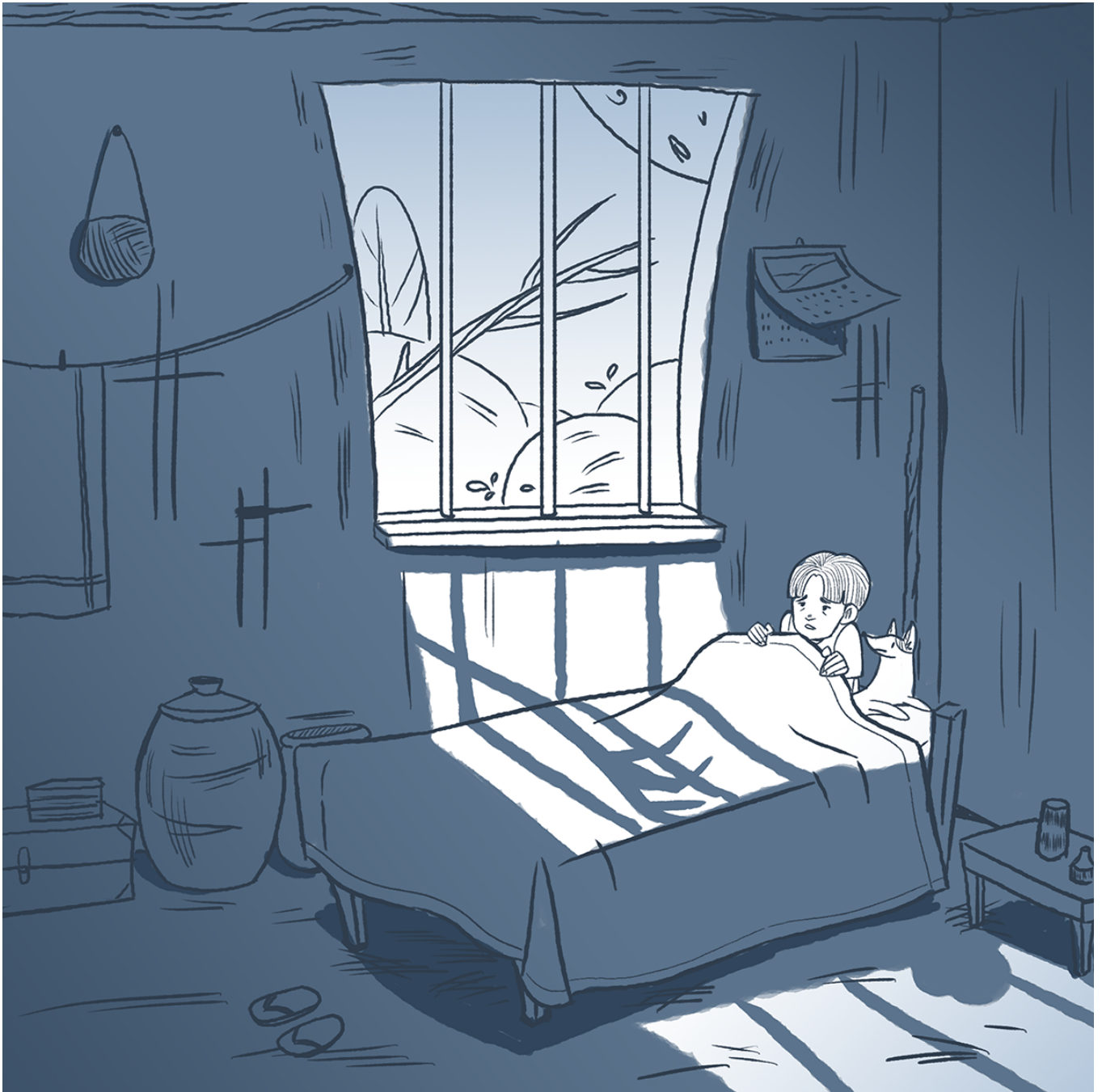
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It was the middle of the night. Ronnie was alone in his room. What was that sound? Was it coming from the old temple near his house? Was someone ringing the temple bell? His aunts were asleep in their room and his father was snoring.



No priests were in the temple. No lights were on in the crematory. Ronnie heard tinkling sounds. Where were the temple guards? What if it's a ghost? he thought. That would be terrible. Foxes were howling, a dog was barking, an owl was hooting, and someone was calling Ronnie's name. Maybe a ghost was coming - a headless ghost!



Ronnie saw something approaching. Its huge hands were holding a jagged stick. Its nails were sharpened spears. Its eyes were blood red.



Its mouth was filled with spindly spikes that looked like the bottoms of radishes. Ronnie thought he felt something grab his foot! His neck stiffened and his head exploded with pain.



Ronnie gritted his teeth. His hair stood on end. He was covered in goosebumps. He wet his pants. Fireflies flickered in his room. He thought they were ghosts. He began to cry.



Ronnie shouted, "Who is it? A ghost, a ghost, a ghost?" His father came in and scolded him, "Dhut, dhut, dhut." His aunts came and scolded him too. Then his aunts said, "Let's run and go see." His aunts all grabbed a light, and they all ran in a hurry.



A dog barked as they got closer and a voice shouted, "Oh no!" Someone hiccupped, hic-hic-hic. Someone giggled, he-he-he. "Who's there? Who's there?!" Babu asked as he lit the lantern.



As the light filled the yard, they saw who was there: Raju, Tinu, and Chhotada!Ronnie's friends laughed at their trick.Ronnie laughed in relief!

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Original Story Is That a Ghost? . Author: Nurul Ambia Chowdhury.

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