

# DAEDALUS AND ICARUS



Daedalus was a brilliant craftsman



who worked for the King of Athens.



The statues Daedalus made looked so real that people believed they could talk.



He had a nephew, Talos, who was his apprentice.



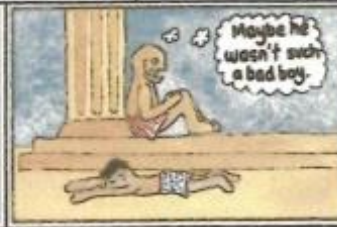
Talos was a clever boy. He invented the saw, the compass and the potter's wheel.



But Daedalus was jealous of his nephew's talent and pushed Talos from the roof of the temple.



The goddess Athene, seeing Talos fall, turned him into a partridge, which flew away.



But Talos' body lay crushed on the ground, and Daedalus feared punishment.



So, with his son Icarus, he fled to Crete, where King Minos welcomed him.



Daedalus made many beautiful statues and temples, furniture and vessels for King Minos.



He also made the Labyrinth, a confusing maze of passages where the man-eating Minotaur lived.



King Minos was afraid that Daedalus might reveal the secret way in and out of the Labyrinth,



so he imprisoned Daedalus and his son on the island.



But Daedalus hit on a clever plan – he and Icarus would fly like birds away from Crete.



Using feathers bound with wax and twine, he made them both a pair of wonderful wings.



As he fixed Icarus' wings to his back, Daedalus warned his son:



"Do not fly too close to the sea or your wings will get wet,



nor too close to the sun, or the wax will melt."



Then Daedalus and Icarus rose into the air and flew away.



People below were amazed: they thought they must be seeing gods.



At first Icarus stayed close behind his father,



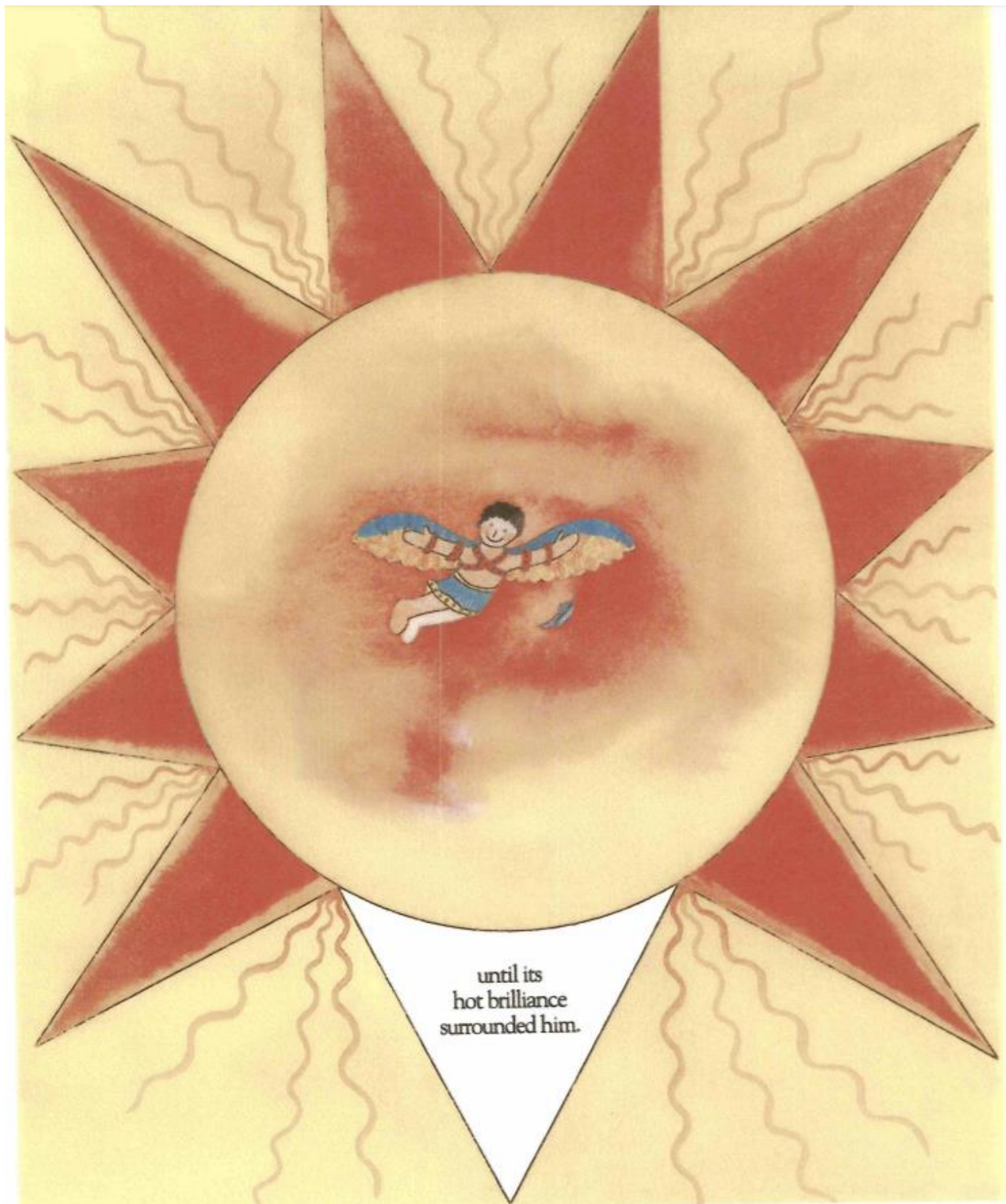
but soon he was overwhelmed with the joy of flying.



Higher and higher he rose,



closer and closer to the sun ...



until its  
hot brilliance  
surrounded him.



Then, suddenly, Icarus felt the wax melt. He saw feathers floating all about him.



His arms would not hold up the air and he plunged towards the sea.



Meanwhile, Daedalus had lost sight of his son.

He saw nothing but a few feathers floating on the waves.



He hovered over the sea until Icarus' body floated to the surface.



Weeping, Daedalus carried his dead son to an island,



where he gently laid the body in a grave.



As Daedalus smoothed the earth, a partridge landed by him.



Daedalus believed it to be the spirit of his nephew, Talos, and he knew that the gods had at last punished him, by allowing Icarus to fall to his death – just as Talos had done.