



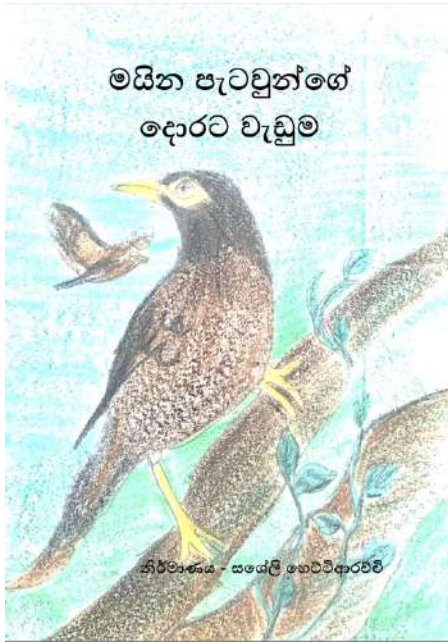
*Fury of the
North -
The Viking
Legacy*



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Fury of the North – The Viking Legacy
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Creating this story has been an incredible journey, and I want to thank everyone who made it possible.

Firstly, a heartfelt thank to my Principal Mrs. Shashikala Senadheera, class teacher Mrs. Amitha Kumari and Mrs. Samanmalee Hettiarachchi to give this opportunity by coordinating and encouraging me to start this book after my first book. Without their valuable advises and thoughts this would not be that much easy to accomplish.

Afterwards my sincere acknowledge to my loving mother Mrs. Anjalika Wanigarathne who made this success by guiding with the relevant materials and taking me through fantastic videos and books which I referred to make this story.

Further, my special thank goes to Mrs. Daad and Mr. Emil who made this more informative by providing historical data in my School being my class teachers.

Finally, to the Vikings whose amazing history inspired this adventure – thank you for sharing your fascinating world with us.

Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the Mahamaya as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past Yatiwara writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Atthadassi Thero.

The Pirivena student monks have also taken up book writing “The Herana Gatkarani “ project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and Pirivena education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one’s innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,
Principal, Mahamaya Girls’ Collage, Kandy

When I was in Sri Lanka, I saw pictures and videos about the Vikings, and they appeared as brave adventures from long-ago. I was fascinated by their stories of exploring faraway lands.

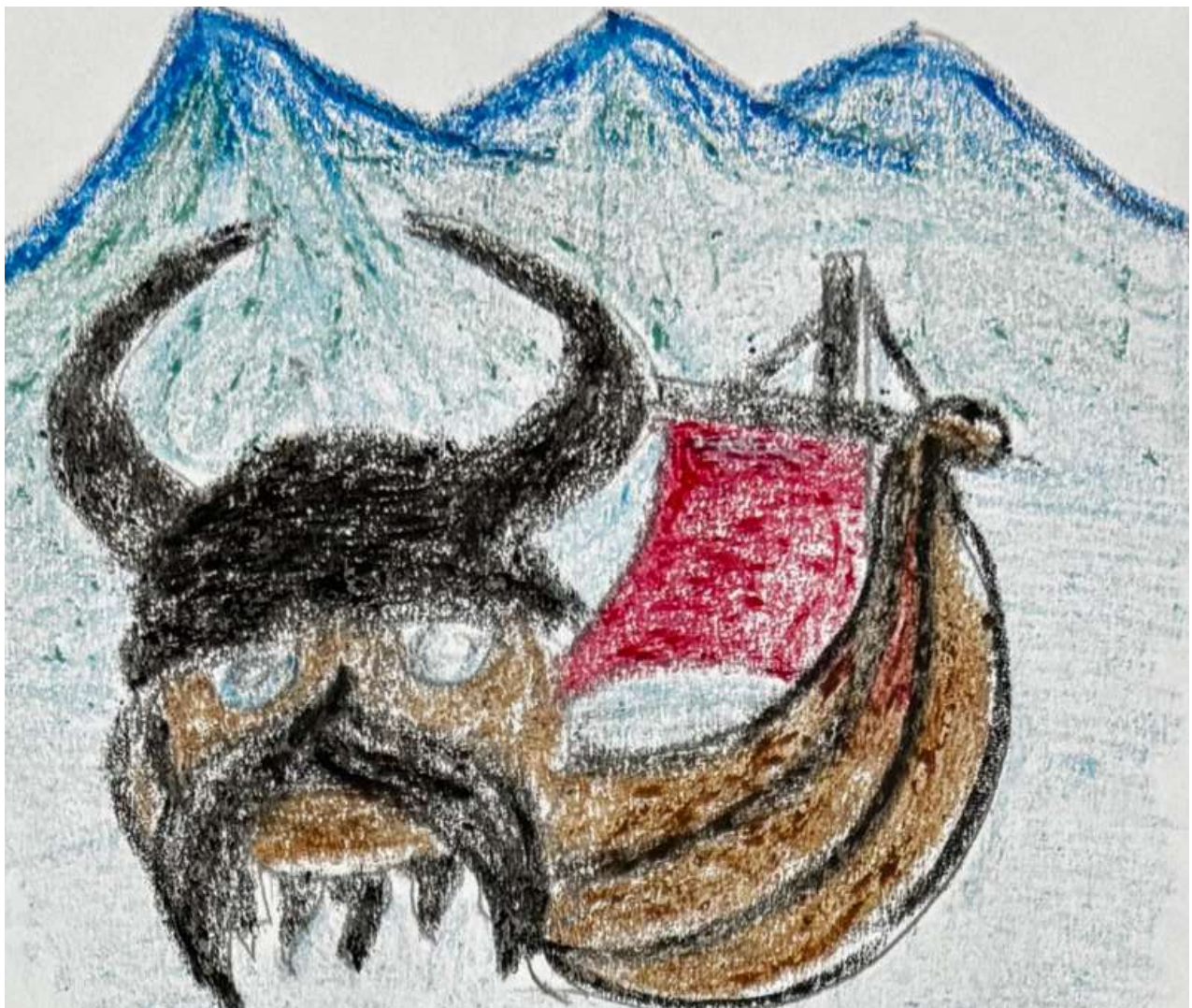
A few months later my dream came true and I stepped into Scandinavia, the home of the Vikings!



Everyday, my curiosity began to grow. I felt so excited to learn more about these amazing people who lived right where I was standing.

One day, my new school teacher took us to the library and there I found books about Vikings. It was like opening a door to the past. I couldn't wait to learn everything I could know about them.

This is where my Viking story began!



A thousand years ago in the land of the VIKINGS....

Imagine a place where snowy mountains touch the sky, deep green forests whisper ancient secrets, and long wooden ships glide across icy blue seas. This is the land of the Vikings, a world of brave adventures, fierce warriors, and clever explorers.



The Vikings were not just about swords and shields. They were farmers, story-tellers and good sailors who loved a good feast. They set out on thrilling voyages, discovering new lands and treasures along the way.

Are you ready to step into their world?

LET'S SET SAIL TO LEARN HOW THE VIKINGS LIVED,
WORKED, PLAYED AND EXPLORED!

A long time ago, the word 'Viking' didn't even exist. The people we now called 'Norsemen' or 'Danes' got their names according to the place where they came from. They lived in places like Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The name 'Viking' came from an old Norse word 'Viking' which means a pirate or a raider.

So, whenever you think of a Viking, you can draw a strong sailor ready for an adventure.



Now I am going to explain about the magical world of Viking beliefs, Gods and how they worshipped their Gods and what made their worship so special.

A long time ago, the Vikings believed in many powerful and magical Gods and Goddesses. They thought these Gods lived in the sky, the Sea and even deep in the Ocean.

The Vikings had special ways of worshipping and saying 'thank you' to the Gods, who they believed were always watching over them. The Vikings didn't go to Church like we do today, instead of they had their own beautiful and exciting ways to connect with the Gods, celebrate life and ask for their protection.

Mainly, they have believed three Gods as the wise leader of the Gods, who had one eye and loved to seek knowledge (Odin), the thunder god (Thor) and the Goddess of love and beauty (Freyja).



Always, the Vikings thought that their Gods helped them in battles and protected them on their long sea voyages. Sometimes they offered food, treasures or even animals like horses, goats and blood of dead people. They believed these gifts would make the Gods happy and keep them safe on their long voyages or in battles.

When we talk about the Viking's beliefs, we cannot forget about one of their most exciting places where courage and strength were rewarded with endless excitement and glory '**Valhalla**'.

Valhalla was a magical place where only the bravest warriors went after they died in battle.



It was a huge, golden palace in the sky, where warriors who died in a battle would go to live forever and the company of Gods, build by the mighty God Odin himself. Valhalla means “the hole of the slain.” The brave worriers who made Valhalla for fighting, practicing with their swords and shields and preparing for the biggest adventure of all. The Vikings believe that if they lived a brave life, one day they would join these mighty worriers in Valhalla.

Life in the Viking age was very different than today. Every day, Vikings woke up early to work, play and explored. They lived in small houses called Longhouses and spent their time hunting, fishing and farming.



Let's take a peek into what their day was like....!

The Vikings and their families mostly lived near the coast and spent most of their time with farming and fishing. The Vikings grew wheat to make bread and beer and raised animals such as sheep, pigs and cattle.

The two main tasks of women were, producing clothing and preparing food. Women baked, cooked, made alcoholic drinks and dairy products such as milk, butter and cheese. Milking sheep and cows was the tasks that fell on to women as a daily duty.



In the summer the animals were looked after by men or women. All agricultural works done by men.

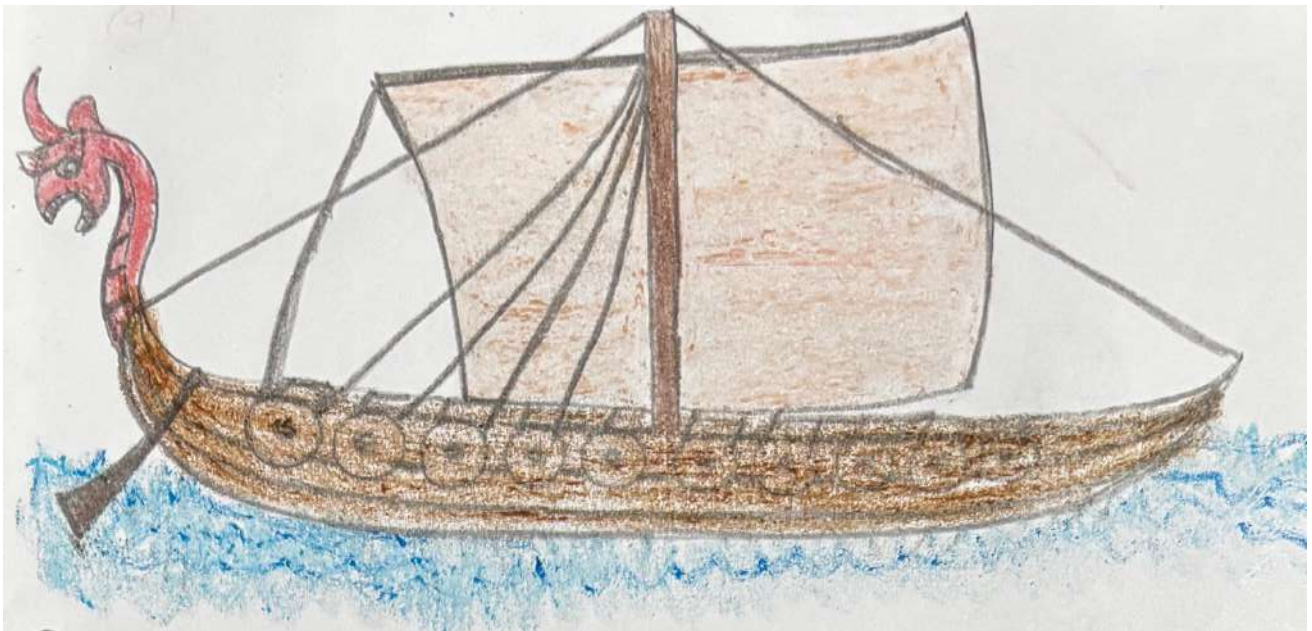
During the summers all stores were filled with food items that can be used for the winter. There were no refrigerators or freezers at that time. But there were other ways to preserve foods like butter, meat and fish. Those foods were salted, dried, smoked or buried.



During the winter, the house wife had to distribute the extra food carefully to the villages.

Did you know Vikings were the coolest sailors ever?

Their ships, called Longships were so amazing! They were long, slim and super-fast, gliding over waves like dragons. The Vikings built these ships so they could sail across storming seas and even sneak into rivers.



And Guess what?

They didn't have GPS like we do. They used the Sun, Stars and even birds to find their way. In addition, they have found the direction by seeing the colour and smell of the ocean water.

Instead of the nature bodies, the Vikings have used a miracle tool to find the ways in the largest Scandinavian land.

It was like a magic. The Vikings used it to find their way, even when the sky was cloudy or foggy. The Sun-stone was a special stone which was made of clear crystal particles that could catch the light of the sun even it was hidden behind clouds. By holding it up to the sky, the Vikings could see where the sunlight was coming and figure out their direction. It was their secret tool for navigation helping them sail across the vast open seas without getting lost.



They were the ultimate explorers to discover new lands by following the natural bodies. Also, they were skilled craftsmen, creating tools, weapons and beautiful jewellery.

The Vikings were like the superheroes of their time, always using their talents to conquer challenges!

When I am finding things about Vikings, one another thing came to my mind.....

That is about our ancestors, “Vaddas”. Sri Lankan Vaddas and the Vikings, even though they lived apart, had some common similarities...?

The Vaddas were amazing hunters using bows and arrows to find food, just like the Vikings hunted with spears. Both loved nature and knew how to survive in the wild. The Viking sailed across seas in their long ships while the Vaddas live near forest and river, moving through nature like experts. Even though their homes and tools are different, both groups are super skilled and braved.



Do you know what would be the surprising thing ever?

Visiting a real Viking village in my next vacation. I would love to walk where the Vikings once lived, see their wooden houses, and imagine how they cooked food over open fires. I would watch how they made shiny swords and shields. Maybe I would get to see a Viking ship closely where it could feel like I have travelled back in time, hearing stories of brave warriors and daring adventures. I cannot wait for my next vacation which will be stepping back into the history.

Then Vikings may have lived long ago, but their incredible stories still inspire us today. Their bravery, skills and love for adventure remind us to explore, learn and be curious about the world.

Who knows may be one day I will set-off on my own adventure just like they did.

Afterward

According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education. This time, it is special that the Pirivena student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, Parents and alumni of Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else. It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities. My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator,
Senevirathne Maha Lekam

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